CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

JJC MASTER PLAN

The Future of the Nation's First Public Community College

- Interview with Dr. Gena Proulx
- Beyond Borders
- Plus 50 Initiative

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Joliet Junior College
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JJC Master Plan



Beyond Borders



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On the Cover: Dr. Gena Proulx, president of Joliet Junior College, talks with students Daniella Mazzaro and Brett Velon on the college's Main Campus.

FROM THE **EDITOR**

CONNECTIONS

We selected *Connections* as the name for this magazine because we realize how important it is to stay in touch with the people and organizations that make an impact on our lives. The relationships between Joliet Junior College, its alumni and the community are perfect examples of meaningful connections that change lives and leave a lasting impression.

The stories in this issue illustrate the college's commitment to being a leader in teaching and learning and the first choice for postsecondary education. From the exciting physical developments of the college's master plan to the innovative program designed to serve the growing plus 50 population, Joliet Junior College continues to make significant connections to students, alumni and the community. By sharing these stories, we hope your bond to JJC will grow stronger.

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CONNECTIONS
A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine will serve as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

Connections is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Publications, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Let's Stay Connected

We know life is busy. From the meetings, phone calls, e-mails, and other important items that fill each hour, it's difficult to find time to network with others or take advantage of opportunities that are presented to us. That's why staying connected is so important.

The Alumni Association at Joliet Junior College recognizes the importance of building a network of people who can assist you throughout your journey. As alumni of JJC, you don't have to look far to find intelligent and successful associates—they are your former classmates, who benefited from their time at JJC, just like you!

Sometimes we don't know where life is taking us. But when we use our connections and let fate lead us, we can find ourselves on a path to something new.



JJC CONNECTIONS
As alumni of JJC, you don't have to look far to find intelligent and successful associates—they are your former classmates, who benefited from their time at JJC, just like you!

With this in mind, we hope you will consider creating or recreating a meaningful connection with JJC. We want to hear about your career accomplishments, marriage, children, or something fun that has happened in your life. It's easy to share your news; simply e-mail us at alumni@jjc.edu or visit www.jjc.edu/new/about/alumni/reconnect.aspx.

We are grateful for each of you, our extraordinary alumni. If you are in the District 525 area and would like a personal tour of JJC and its campuses, contact us at (815) 280-2218. We will gladly arrange a tour for you.

Kelly Myers
Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations

Carletta Seay
President of the JJC Alumni Association

Dr. Gena Proulx

JJC's First Female President Talks about the Exciting Job of Leading the Nation's First Public Community College



In July 2006, Dr. Gena Proulx became the first female president of Joliet Junior College. President Proulx came to JJC after more than 30 years of higher education experience that began at New York State's Clinton Community College as an assistant professor of business administration. She made the jump from faculty to administration in the early 1980s, first at Genesee Community College in N.Y., before stops at Franklin University in Ohio and Erie Community College in N.Y. Her final destination before arriving at JJC was The Community College of Baltimore County in Maryland where she served as executive vice chancellor.

What does it mean to you to be the first female president of Joliet Junior College?

At one of the colleges I worked at, I was the first female vice president and back then, in 1993 when I took the position, I couldn't understand what the big deal was about being the first woman. At JJC, it's extremely significant. I think it means that the college trustees decided to reach out and bring in a leader that replicates the majority of the students here, which happens to be female. So, I take it as an honor, but I don't I make that a priority. I'd like to be remembered as the seventh president who came in and did what had to be done and was successful as contrasted to being the first female president. But, I think being the first woman in this position really says that the board saw that it needed to do something to diversify its leadership ranks.

You recently renewed your contract for another three years at JJC starting in 2009. What were the motivating factors for you as you made the decision to continue your presidency at JJC?

I wanted to make that commitment because the board made that commitment. The board supported me and said you're doing what we wanted you to do. And so I got very excited about that. I'm very happy in the community. I've gotten very involved in the community and I like the people in the community that I've been working with.

You have designated fundraising and advancement as a key part of your presidential duties. Why has it become important for a college president to be one of its chief fundraisers as well as advocates in the community?

Community colleges are new on the fundraising scene. State funding is declining and it's projected—in Illinois specifically—that state funding will continue to decline. Because of my background in business, I'm not one to wait for the state to turn around and increase funding again. I'm a little sensitive about running to state government and asking them to give us dollars. I believe that it's our responsibility to go get those dollars.

What are some of the observations that you've made about District 525?

This is a very giving community. I see that at the college when we do our employee giving campaign. Employees are giving at levels that I haven't seen at other institutions where I have worked. I think that's a positive reflection on the community. I think that the other thing that's so interesting is that District 525 is no longer just Joliet. It's a big, big district—and part of this big district is the rural areas. We're very rural and there's something comforting about that. So, I have empathy when I hear people say their cornfields are disappearing. The cornfields are an important part of the district and the community, and I don't want to see them go either.

What excites you most about the college's master planning process?

We have a team here that really wants to see this master plan be successful. At other institutions where I've worked, the master plan sat on the shelf and nothing happened. JJC's Master Plan is alive and it's real, and it's been fun to see it happen. We've got a wonderful architecture group that we're working with—Legat Architects. They are a premiere group. So, I've got to tell you, this is why I came here; this is what's making the job so much fun.

Talk about the strategic plan and the meaningful moments during that process.

What was good for me during the strategic planning process was to hear the people that we invited to the campus: the alums, the people in the community and listen to them in their focus groups talk about what they absolutely loved about JJC. It was like a history book speaking. That got me very excited about the process. Now, it's exciting to go out and talk to my colleagues. What I'm hearing from them is, 'we're so glad we know where you're going and we are so excited about your master plan because it makes you a partner with us.' And that's really good to hear from them.

What are the challenges facing Joliet Junior College over the next 20 years and how is the college leadership team preparing the district?

If we're talking 20 years, our master plan only takes us 15 years out. We need to figure out where we are going to build another site. Is it going to be in the eastern part of our district? What about areas like Bolingbrook? And along with that, how are we going to help our faculty develop the new programs that they need to develop? We don't have the programs that we need 20 years from now; we may not even know what they are. I think that these are going to be big challenges, primarily in the academic area and big challenges in the area of communications because things are going to change for us.

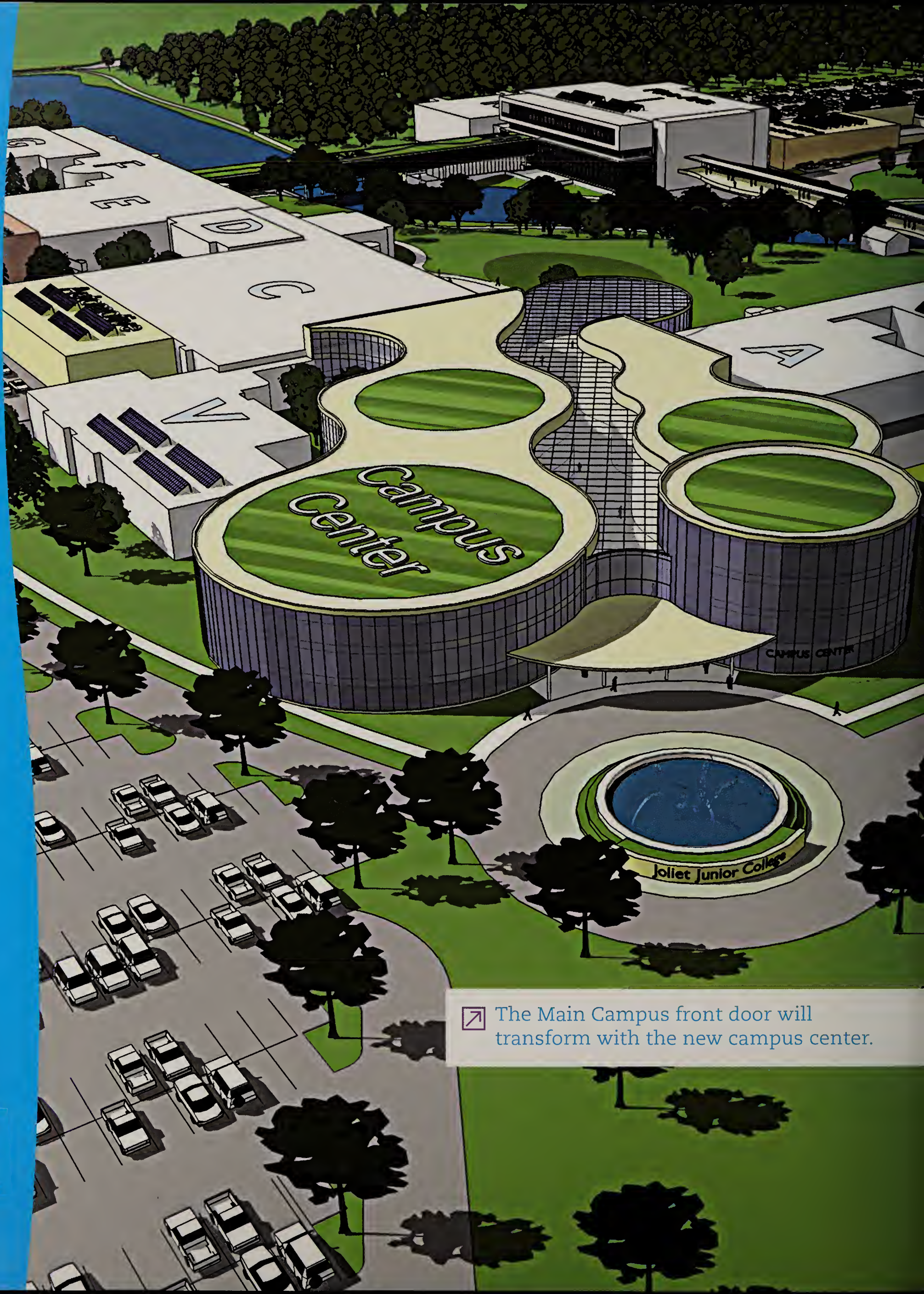
In addition to the public challenges of the college, you faced a challenge yourself this past year with your battle with cancer. How are you feeling now and how was it to go through that process?

I look back a lot to the last five or six months and I still don't know how I did it because I've got to tell you, when you become a cancer patient all of a sudden your whole perspective changes on things. My whole perspective changed to, 'do I really want to be working or do I not want to be working?' I don't know how I got through it, but I can say that the people at JJC gave of their time and were concerned. That helped me, and so I feel really great. My energy is coming back, but I haven't forgotten what I went through. The people in the institution and the women, primarily, were extremely supportive and caring and giving of themselves to check on me and give me tips on how to get through it. And I think there's a lot to be said for that.

"JJC's Master Plan is alive and it's real, and it's been fun to see it happen."

What do you do when you're not behind the president's desk or out in the community?

I love to read mystery books and I'm primarily interested in those mystery books that have female detectives and heroines. I still work out and take care of myself physically so I like to pay attention to fitness and spend some time with my husband. Every now and then, I drag out the golf clubs and dust them off. But a lot of my fun, really, is going to things at the college. That's why I'm always encouraging faculty and staff to take advantage of the theatre or take advantage of the Sunday afternoon music concerts that our faculty members present because that is enjoyment and relaxation to me. It's just a lot of fun to do. I don't have to go too far to see a football, soccer or basketball game or spend time with students. I like that. It's not work for me; it's actually fun.



The Main Campus front door will transform with the new campus center.



From first to foremost:

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE MASTER PLAN

by **Rachel Rose**

It was my first day as a new employee at Joliet Junior College, and already I was hearing about change. References to an extensive renovation known as "the master plan" were everywhere on campus: from impressive architectural renderings on foamboards in hallways and corridors, to animated conversations about new construction and the promise of more parking spaces, to curious inquiries from students eager to learn more about the transformation coming to their college. As I formed my first impressions of my new workplace, I wanted to learn more about this mysterious master plan and what it meant to the college.

It wasn't difficult to find someone to talk to about the master plan. It was on everyone's mind: students, faculty, alumni and employees alike. But the excitement was about more than just new buildings, improved facilities and additional parking spaces. The master plan signaled the first major physical changes to the nation's first public community college in more than 40 years.

"The master plan is the physical articulation of Joliet Junior College's values," Dr. Ryan Smith, vice president of institutional advancement and research, shared with me. "The master plan will allow us to improve our services to students and community members with better facilities and programs. We are very excited about what the future holds for JJC."

Frequently, public community colleges update their master plans every five years as required by state law, and then put the plan aside for another five years until the next obligatory update, said Smith.

Smith added, "JJC, on the other hand, is putting its master plan into action; we are making our college's vision reality. You will see real and physical improvements coming to the campus."

For Alumni Association President Carletta Seay, the master plan means that JJC is providing greater services for its community.

"As an alumna of JJC, I consider the master plan to be an expansion of the college's excellent education and services which enriched me personally," Seay said. "Both current and future students will see that the college's advancement through the master plan will benefit them well after their graduation date."

To make the master plan a reality, the college is collaborating with Chicago-based Legat Architects. The plan encompasses 750,000 square feet of facilities and 463 acres of land. The alterations and additions to the campus are scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The Master Plan to date

PHASE 1: INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

- **October 2006**: Steering committee kickoff meeting
- **November 2006-January 2007**: Collect feedback on needs and assess space
- **April 2007**: Report of space needs/space utilization
- **April-May 2007**: Review data/feedback

PHASE 2: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

- **May 2007**: Space needs/utilization report presented to Board of Trustees
- **August 2007**: Presentation of three Master Plan concepts

PHASE 3: PUBLIC FEEDBACK and MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- **September 2007**: Steering Committee recommends concept
- **November-December 2007**: Master Plan is presented to the public and JJC community
- **March 2008**: Board approves building/financial plan
- **April 2008**: Board approves consensus master plan
- **May 2008**: Board approves master plan funding options
- **June-July 2008**: Programming committees are formed to assess building layout needs
- **June 2008**: Board approves contract for Legat Architects to complete the first phase of the college's master plan
- **August 2008**: S&P rates JJC's $30 million in alternative revenue source bonds AA

PRELIMINARY PROJECT SCHEDULES

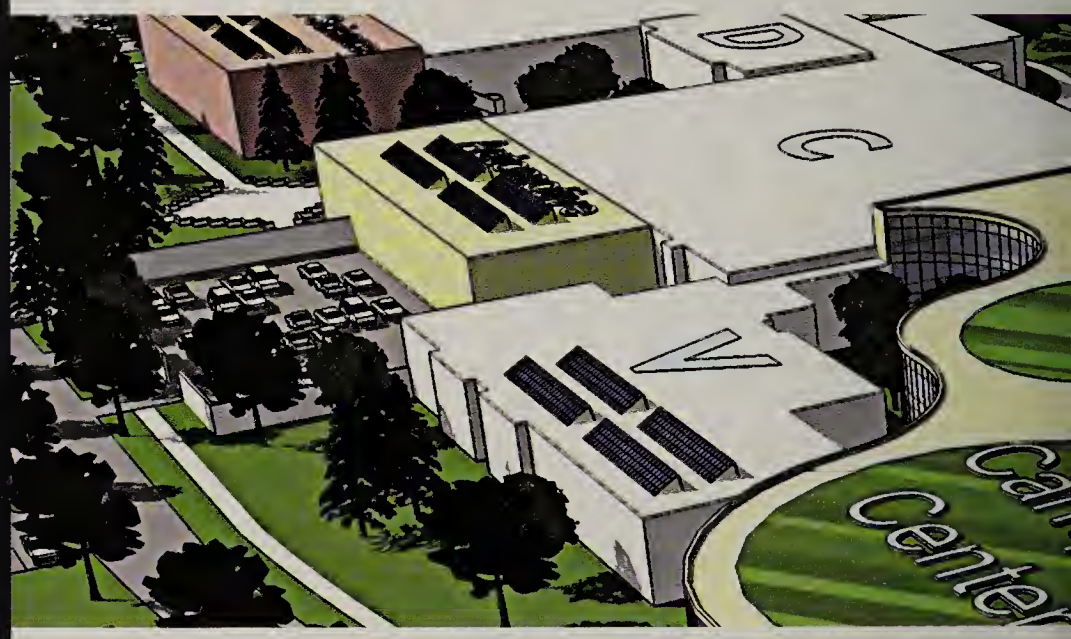
- Greenhouse/classroom facility construction
- Construction on new facility services building
- Construction begins on the new campus center
- Classroom remodeling

"The master plan is the physical articulation of Joliet Junior College's values."

- Dr. Ryan Smith, vice president of institutional advancement and research

The first phase is scheduled to begin in fall 2008 with the groundbreaking for the new greenhouse and horticultural facility near the college's southeast entrance on Houbolt Road. The demolition of the current greenhouses and the temporary buildings will follow, making room for the new campus center, which will be built where the A, B and C buildings converge.

in May 2008. The board also approved a measure to seek voter approval of an $89 million building bond referendum at the November general election. (At the time of writing, the outcome of the referendum was not known.) The remaining $61 million will come from not-for-profit, private and other funding options and existing college capital funds.



The $220 million cost will be funded through three financing initiatives. The first is a $9 capital assessment fee per credit hour that will generate $70 million, approved by the JJC Board of Trustees

The impact of the master plan will be far-reaching. Students will benefit from a centralized and expanded campus center where all student services, administration offices, new cafeteria and

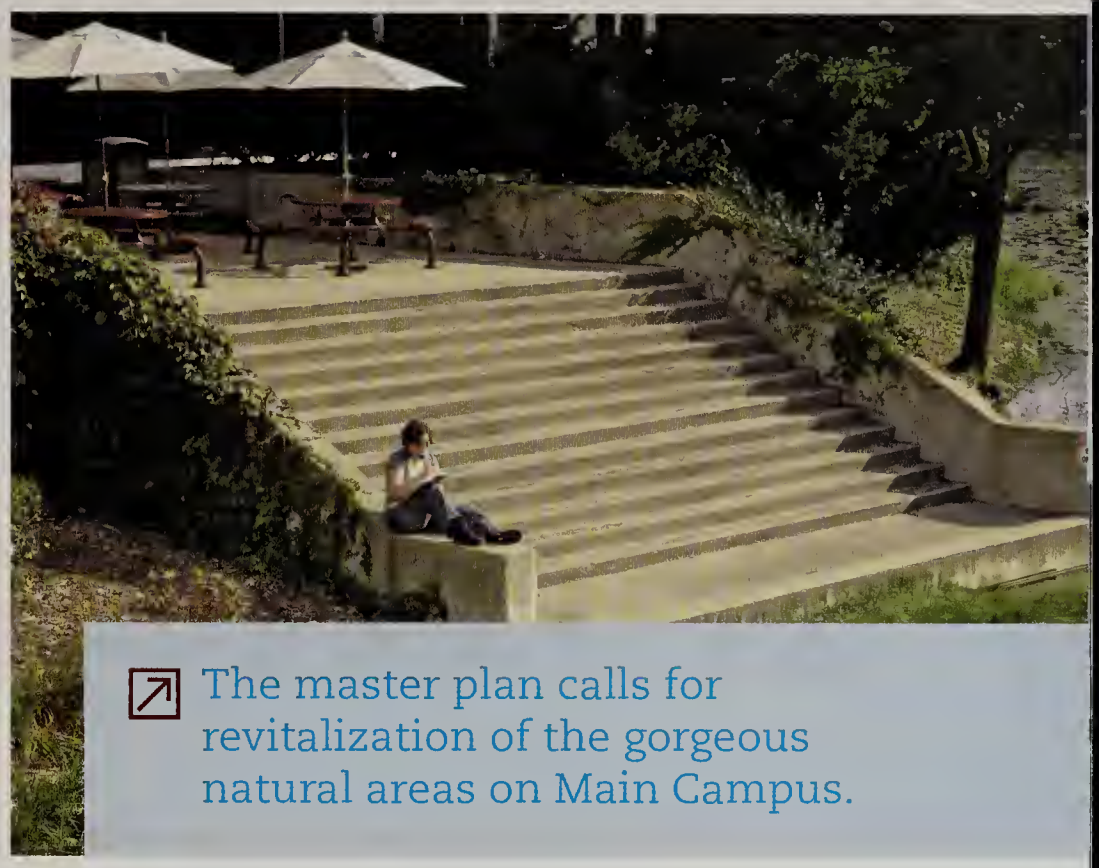
the new library will be located. The expansion and addition of facilities for the Automotive, Culinary Arts, Science and Nursing and Allied Health programs will enable the college to enroll more students and meet the growing demand for professionals in these fields. Community members will benefit from a fitness center partnership with the YMCA, as well as new bike and walking paths throughout the campus that will connect to the I&M Canal trail.

"The master plan will allow JJC to provide students with convenient and necessary tools and services that are currently limited," said alumna and CIOS professor Debbie Dykstra. "We'll be able to minimize the stress to our new students by providing the services that can make their transition a little less overwhelming."

Many are also optimistic that the completion of the master plan will take JJC's reputation for excellence and quality beyond the local community.

"As JJC is undergoing significant changes with the implementation of the master plan, one valuable change I would like to see is increased recognition of the college nationwide," said alumnus Ramsey Mallory. "The master plan is important to me because it demonstrates that JJC is moving in a positive direction while continuing to build upon a tradition of excellence."

After reflecting on the experiences of my first few days, I began to understand what fueled the enthusiasm about the master plan. It was more than excitement for the physical transformation of JJC: it was the anticipation of continuing the college's commitment to enrich the lives of its students and community. It was also the eagerness for realizing an unparalleled vision of progress and improvement that resonated in the hearts and minds of every person I've met since I arrived here. And that is an extraordinary first impression.



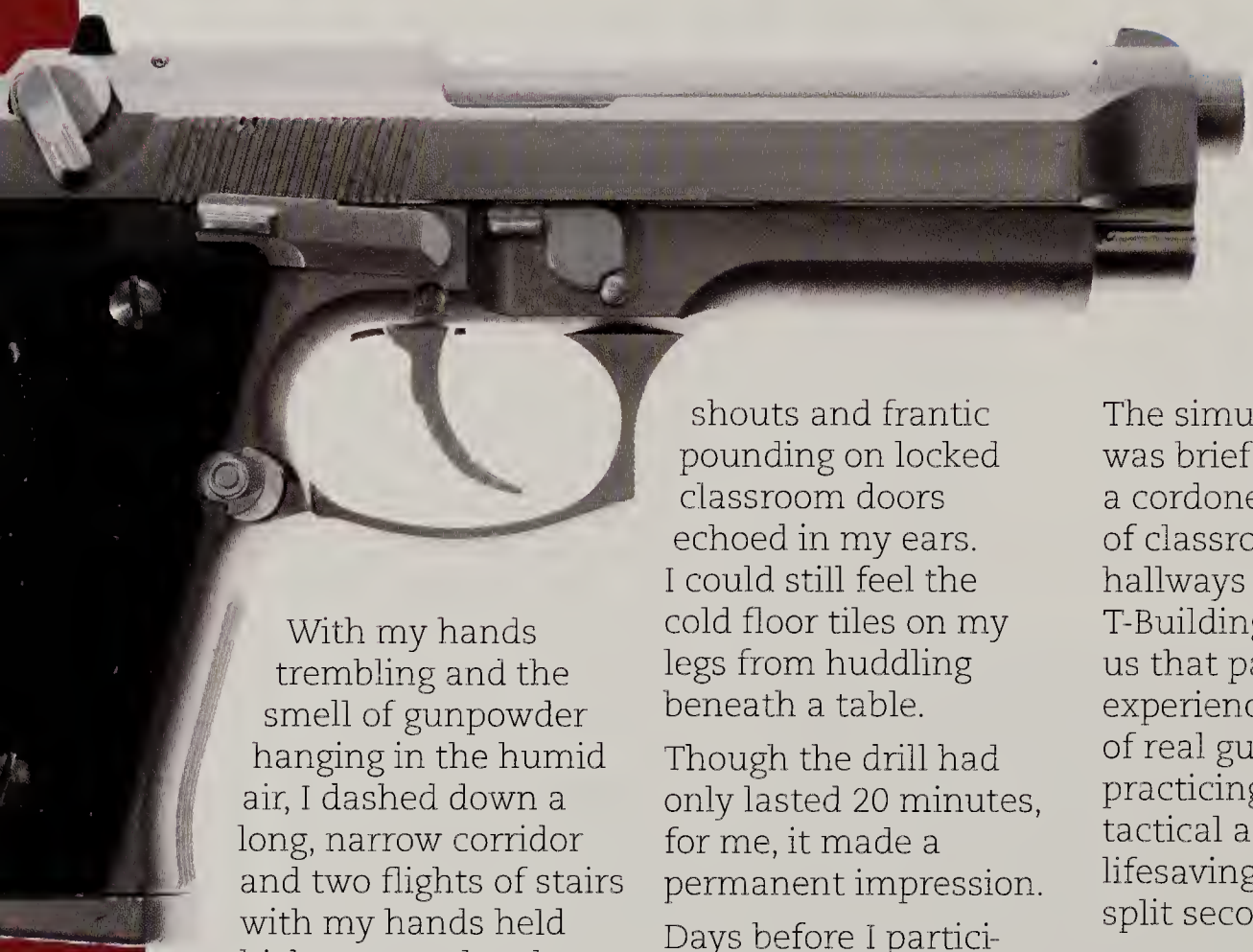
The master plan calls for revitalization of the gorgeous natural areas on Main Campus.

Physical highlights of the master plan:

- Campus center with one-stop student services
- A nursing and allied health building on the Main Campus
- The expansion of the automotive technology center
- A new culinary arts and hospitality facility at the City Center
- Eight new science labs and renovation of existing labs
- An additional 1,600 parking spaces
- Return to full-service at the North Campus
- Restoration of the natural areas
- Fitness center partnership with YMCA
- Additional walking and bike paths that will connect the arboretum, lake, courtyard and natural areas to the I&M Canal
- Total renovation of all classrooms including new technology and furniture
- Emphasis on environmental sustainability
  - LEED certification for new buildings
  - Use of alternative energy sources
  - Permeable parking lots
  - An educational trail highlighting sustainability elements on campus
- New Fine Arts Center with additional galleries and performance space
- New library

When Seconds Matter

College undertakes first active shooter drill



by **Kelly Rohder**

With my hands trembling and the smell of gunpowder hanging in the humid air, I dashed down a long, narrow corridor and two flights of stairs with my hands held high over my head.

I opened a set of double doors and stepped into the bright August afternoon. Campus police officers motioned for me to join the growing group of college employees in the adjacent parking lot. They seemed to be as dazed as I was.

As I stood there, the quick bursts of gunfire began to replay in my mind. The intense shouts and frantic pounding on locked classroom doors echoed in my ears. I could still feel the cold floor tiles on my legs from huddling beneath a table.

Though the drill had only lasted 20 minutes, for me, it made a permanent impression.

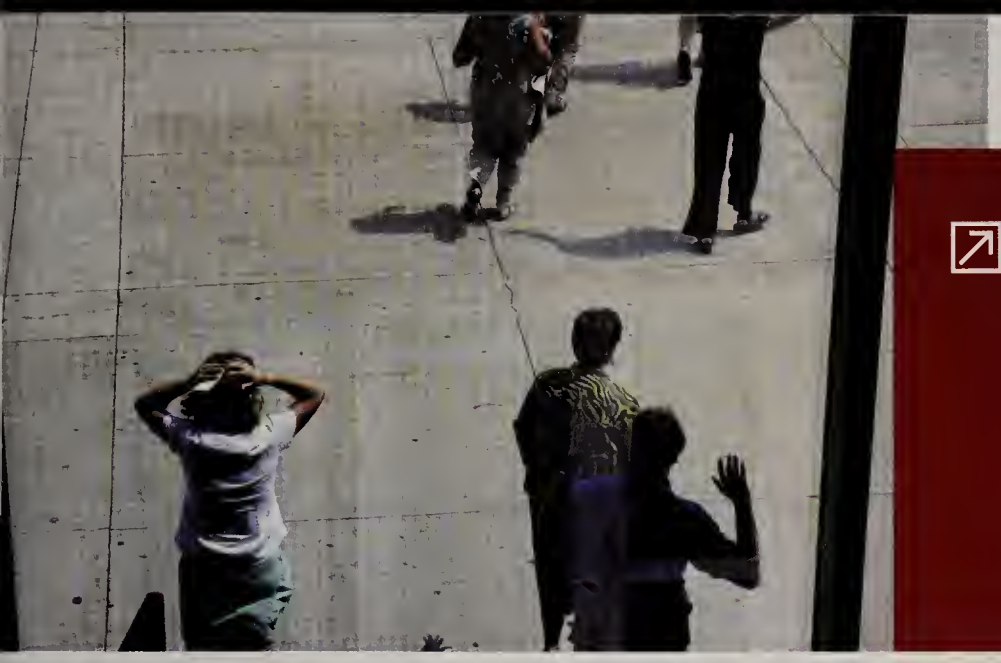
Days before I participated in this active shooter drill at Joliet Junior College, the Chicago Tribune reported that the Illinois Legislature had just passed a bill requiring all Illinois colleges and universities to plan and practice for emergencies. Fifty-five staff members—including myself—had taken part in this exercise, held on the college's Main Campus in Joliet.

The simulated shooting was brief and held in a cordoned-off section of classrooms and hallways of the A- and T-Buildings. Those of us that participated experienced the sounds of real gunfire while practicing how to make tactical and potentially lifesaving decisions in split seconds.

"I thought it was very realistic with the sounds of gun pops, screaming, and footsteps running down the halls," Ryan Smith, vice president of institutional advancement and research, told me. "Since I went through the drill, I feel much better prepared to deal with this type of situation, tactically and mentally."

The exercise also provided more hands-on training for the college police department—officers practiced their first response skills while one JJC police officer and two campus safety officers acted as the shooters.





"In most of the recent serious events occurring on college campuses, the incidents were over in a manner of minutes, and seconds may have meant the difference between life and death," Comanda said. "We owe it to our college community to provide the same level of safety as they expect in their homes."

"I felt the drill was realistic once it started and didn't think I would have been so anxious, but you really do get into the mindset when you hear gunshots fired," Nancy Sleboda, Food Services accountant/secretary, added. "I am much more aware of my surroundings now, like exit doors and windows, than I was before the drill—not just at the college but in other circumstances. My goal is to keep the survivor mindset fresh in my mind."

In 2003, the campus police department was authorized by the JJC Board of Trustees to move from a sworn and unarmed department to an armed department. One additional police officer was added to the department this year, while the college has committed to adding one officer per year over the next three years. This would bring sworn staff to 14 officers with a total department staff of 37. In addition to this and other drills, JJC police officers participate in three active shooter drills each year.

"Colleges are a microcosm of society at large with most of the same problems that are encountered in any municipality," Pete Comanda, JJC police chief, said after conducting the drill. "Having in-house police officers decreases the response time in case of a serious incident."

This drill follows a long list of proactive steps the college has taken in the past year to prepare for emergency situations that range from severe weather to violence on campus. The Campus Security Enhancement Act, signed by Gov. Blagojevich on Aug. 22, goes into effect Jan. 1, 2009 and mandates that schools develop and use emergency response and violence prevention programs.

Comanda said that in many areas, the college is ahead of the game.

The college already has an all-hazards emergency response plan and a plan that corresponds with the National Incident Management System, established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This spring, administrators developed a behavioral intervention team to provide a point of contact for members of the college community who have encountered student behavior that they perceive as aberrant, threatening or dangerous. The team examines the situation to determine if there have been any additional warning signs or reasons for concern and how to respond to the situation.

With around $2.1 million earmarked to initiate new and enhance existing safety measures, the college has already made a major commitment to safety and security on campus.

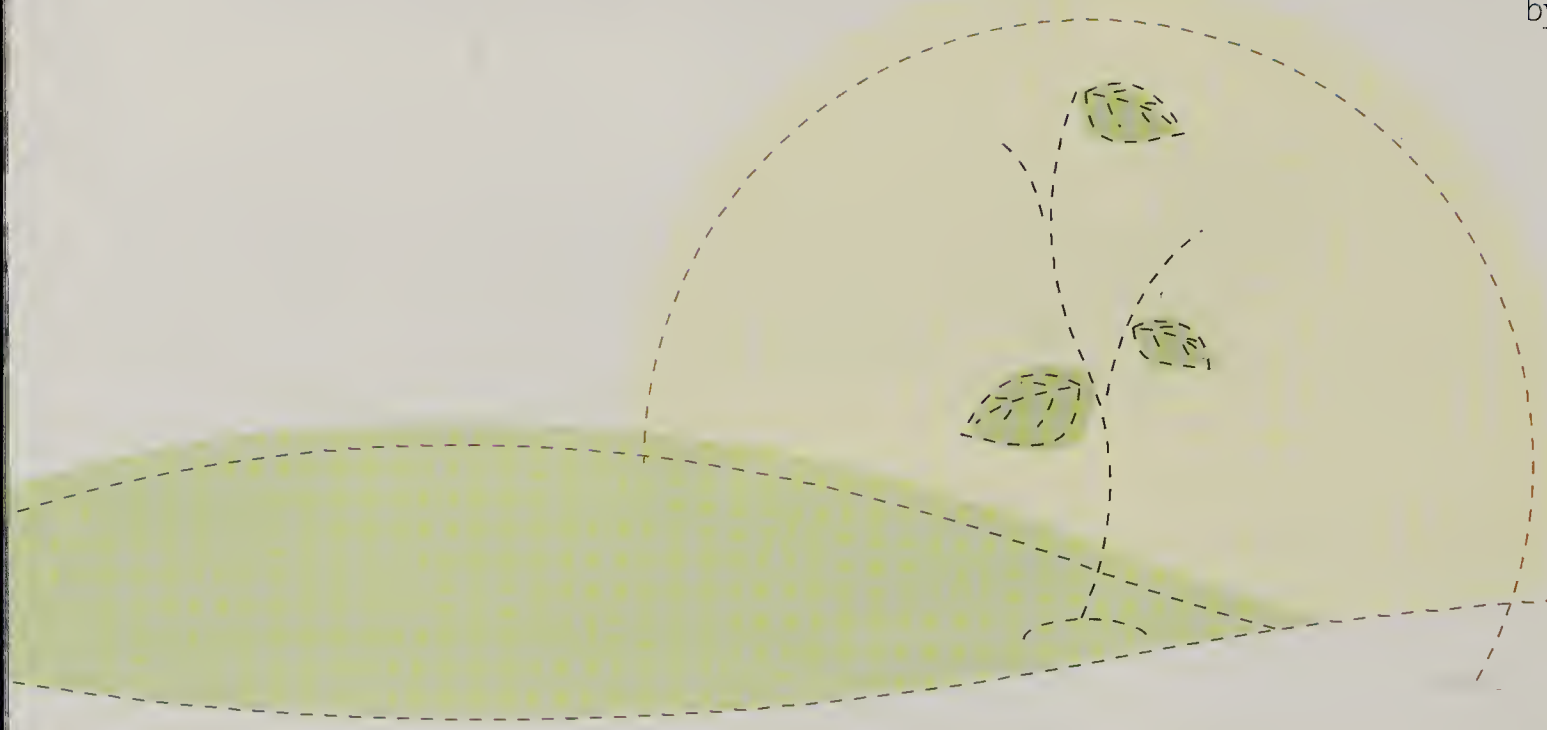
Initiatives and upgrades include:

- approximately 180 new security cameras at all campuses
- electronic locks for all exterior doors and sensitive areas
- interior thumb locks on 367 classroom, labs and lecture hall doors
- an emergency notification system that will notify subscribers and staff of any emergency situations via text messages, phones and emails which complements the campus-wide PA system that was recently upgraded
- the replacement of 20 exterior emergency phones with high visibility, blue light emergency phones while additional interior emergency phones were also added. There are now 70 total.
- implementation of a student/staff ID card
- equipping all officers with Starcom police radios
- equipping all officers with tasers
- assigning JJCPD officers to both the Joliet Special Operations Squad and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) regional task force

NEW BEGINNINGS

JJC Helps the Plus 50 Crowd Get Ready for New Careers

by **Kelly Rohder**



The last time Walter Corey searched for a job, it was standard protocol to go door-to-door, business-to-business to distribute a resume.

Two decades later however, Corey learned that not only do the job seekers of today refrain from that practice, most don't even leave their homes to apply for a job, instead using the convenience of the Internet to send their materials electronically.

Corey, 60, is just one of the 78 million baby boomers now approaching traditional retirement age that have found they want to continue working but have not yet found a suitable job or the assistance they need from workforce system professionals.

Joliet Junior College aims to help make their transition a smooth one.

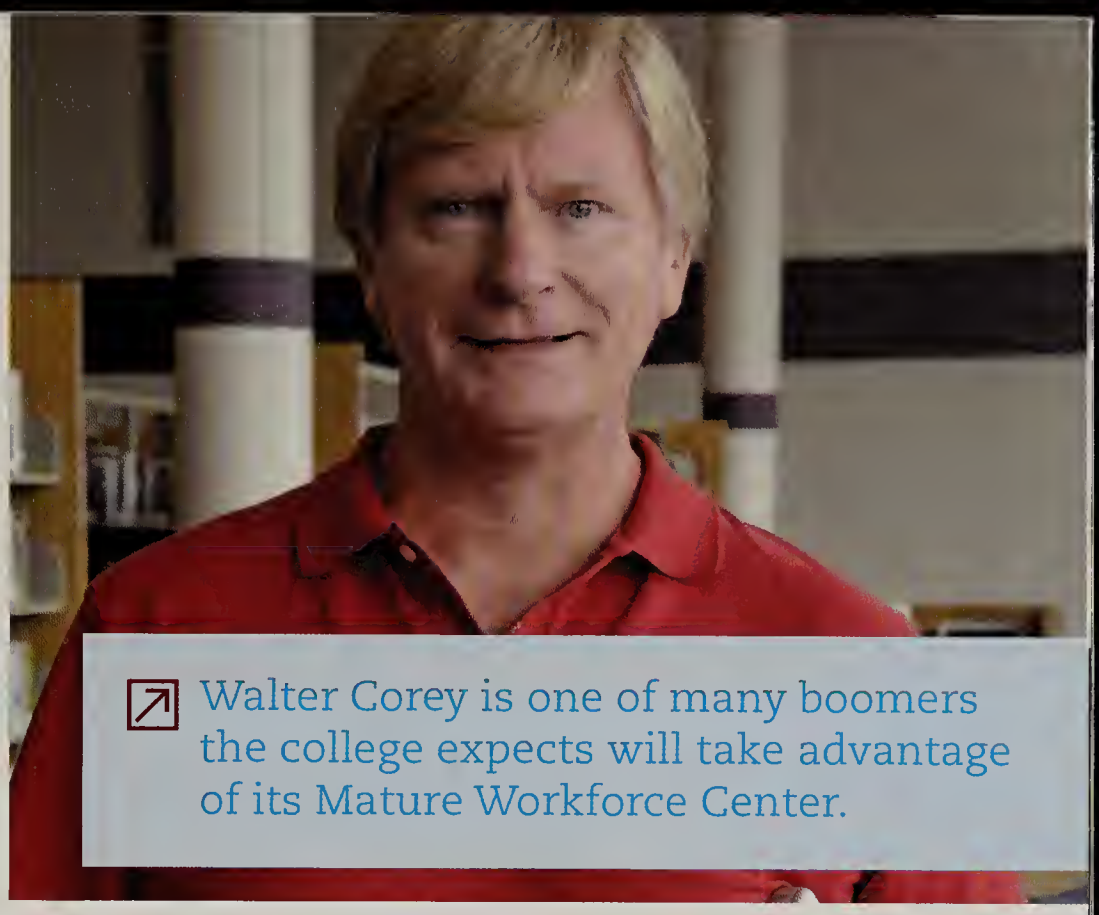
JJC was selected this spring as one of 15 colleges nationwide that will participate in the three-year "Plus 50 Initiative," which will develop and benchmark models for innovative programs reaching out to students over age 50. The project is funded with a $3.2 million dollar grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies and is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

"Our hope is that center will serve as a national model that can be replicated within existing community college career centers," Sandra Mol, JJC's director of workforce development, said.

An extremely competitive grant process, JJC was chosen among 48 community colleges that submitted proposals. The grant was awarded to the college's Workforce Development office and was written by Mol.

The college's center—located at its City Center Campus—is now in full swing, serving clients like Corey.

After leaving his operations/marketing job at a Chicago retailer to pursue a new career and hone



Walter Corey is one of many boomers the college expects will take advantage of its Mature Workforce Center.

his business skills, Corey brought his nearly 20-year-old resume to the center.

"It was like an about-face, learning about the changes in the workforce," he said, noting foreign words like monster.com and Craigslist had quickly become part of his vocabulary.

Kelly Lapetino, JJC employment and training coordinator, worked with Corey in a resume-writing workshop. Lapetino said she purposely keeps workshops small, so that clients can network and hold interactive conversations.

"They drive the workshop," she said. "It's a dynamic setting."

According to JJC's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, for fiscal year 2008, there were 1,561 credit students 50 years or over at JJC, representing around 6.1 percent of the annual credit student population. Lapetino also noted the extreme diversity of boomers coming to the center.

"It's interesting. We get people from all walks of life. Some are highly educated, others have been stay-at-home moms looking to re-enter the workforce," she said. "They all bring so many experiences here."

Corey, who has earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree, said the small group setting of the workshops added a human aspect to his learning experience that was invaluable.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it's likely more boomers like Corey will be seeking out the center's services. Between 1977 and 2007, employment of workers 65 and over increased 101 percent, compared to a much smaller increase of 59 percent for total employment (16 and over). The number of employed men 65 and over rose 75 percent, but employment of women 65 and older increased by nearly twice as much, climbing 147 percent. While the number of employed people age 75 and over is relatively small (0.8 percent of the employed in 2007), this group had the most dramatic gain, increasing 172 percent between 1977 and 2007.

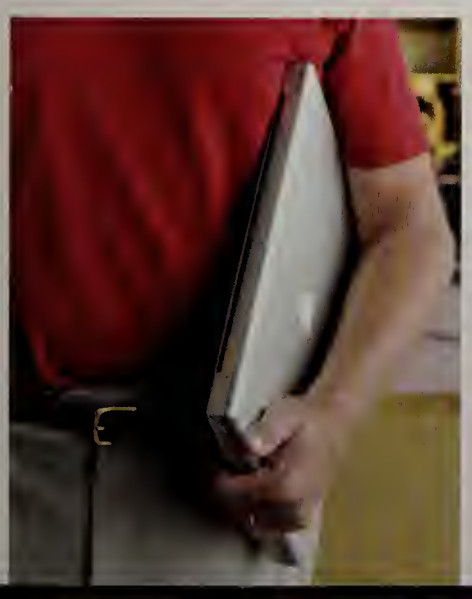
In light of these striking statistics, Lapetino said over the next five years, the center would continue to provide learning, training, re-training, and volunteer opportunities to individuals ages 50 and over.

JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx said she is proud that the college's workforce development staff recognizes the significance of the Plus 50 employee in today's workforce.

"Boomers won't be retiring at 55. Because they are projected to be living longer, they will be staying in the workforce into their 70s," she said. "As a result, they may be in their 50s but will be continuing in the employment market. To do this, they may pursue something new and different or may just want to update their technological and communication skills. It is a very, very exciting time to be in a position to serve this growing market."

"Our hope is that the center will serve as a national model that can be replicated within existing community college career centers."

- Sandra Mol, JJC's director of workforce development



Daniella Mazzaro

Getting involved helps JJC student to become a leader







"I was really shy before I got here. Faculty and staff really care about their students so they encouraged me to get involved. I was able to come out of my shell." - Daniella Mazzaro

Attending Joliet Junior College has helped Daniella Mazzaro do more than save money on college tuition. Her involvement in three student clubs has helped her overcome a lifelong shyness.

"I was really shy before I got here," she says. "Faculty and staff really care about their students so they encouraged me to get involved. I was able to come out of my shell."

Now, Mazzaro, 20, is president of the Student Alumni Association and regularly leads meetings with her student colleagues. She is also a peer mentor and a member of the JJC Honors Program.

The native Venezuelan moved to Joliet last year. Now living at Centennial Commons, JJC's student housing, Mazzaro is at the start of her second year at the college. Though she cites archaeology as her first love, she says her career goal is to become a dentist.

"I wanted to get my bachelor's degree, but I couldn't afford a four-year university," says Mazzaro, who will transfer to study dentistry as a junior at the University of Illinois-Chicago. "I won't have to worry about outrageous student loans when I'm done with school, and the education I have received at JJC has been great."

Mazzaro hopes to one day open a practice that provides dental health care services to lower-income families.

Congratulations

Successful Connections highlights Joliet Junior College students, faculty, staff and alumni who have accomplished goals that represent the college's drive to be a leader in teaching and learning.

Congratulations to **Tamara Brattoli,** Phi Theta Kappa faculty adviser, on her selection from over 100 eligible advisers to receive a scholarship to PTK's 2008 International Convention in Philadelphia, Penn., in April 2008.

JJC Culinary Arts faculty member **Andy Chlebana** was named National Pastry Chef of the Year at the American Culinary Federation's (ACF) national convention in Las Vegas. The award recognizes a pastry chef who has displayed a passion for the craft, has an accomplished reputation in the pastry field and has given back through the education of others by sharing his or her skills and knowledge. Chlebana competed against three others for the title.



The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity awarded **JJC's Workforce Development** a grant totaling $619,000 in March 2008 that will provide tuition assistance to women and minorities enrolling in the construction technology certificate program. The following employees partnered in writing this grant: Paige Vanderhyden, employment and training coordinator, faculty members Maria Rafac, Greg Pakieser and Laura Kaiser, and Pat Fera, manager of the Workforce Investment Board of Will County.

Congratulations to JJC Police Chief **Peter Comanda** on the publication of his rticle "How LEMAP (Loaned Executive Management Assistance Program) Can Help Your Department" in the November/December 2007 issue of Campus Law Enforcement Journal.

Congratulations to **Kelly Myers,** assistant director of institutional advancement and alumni relations, who presented at this year's American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference in April 2008. Her presentation was "Beyond Ambassadors: Today's Student Alumni Will Be Tomorrow's Donors, Advocates and More."

Faculty member **William Yarrow** presented at the annual meeting of The League for Innovation in the Community College in Denver on "The Sustainable Classroom." One of the attendees in the session was Peggy Curry, dean of the Vail-Eagle Campus of Colorado Mountain College, who wrote an enthusiastic article about the session for her college's eNews.

JJC student Scott Getz, 20, spent 10 weeks at Kew, the premier botanical garden of Europe.

This regular feature highlights Joliet Junior College students, faculty, and alumni who are representing the institution throughout the United States and internationally.

Beyond Borders

by **Kelly Rohder**

In 1968, Dr. Jim Ethridge traveled to Germany for a summer internship. Wanting to extend his education beyond the confines of a classroom, the 20-year-old college sophomore found himself at a dairy farm in the town of Calw, nestled in the northern Black Forest.



Two years and a master's degree later, Ethridge was compelled to travel abroad again, this time heading to Botswana, a country in southern Africa slightly smaller than the state of Texas.

"I went there because I had never heard of the country and could not find it on a map," Ethridge said. "I was a white kid, 22 years of age and way out of my comfort zone. It was an adventure I loved and lived to the fullest."

Forty years later, Ethridge, now the chair of the Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department at JJC, uses his travels to encourage students to explore their global community. He has worked to provide various international opportunities within the department since 1990.

"I was hooked on adventure and travel," he said. "I now use it every day of my life to inspire young people to do the same."

This summer, two JJC horticultural students followed in Ethridge's footsteps, one traveling overseas to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew near London and the other cultural worlds away to



Out of the hundreds that apply, Scott Getz was one of only 15 chosen for the internship at the Royal Botanical Gardens.



Scott Getz



Dr. Ethridge

the Ernst Benary Seed Company in Germany.

Scott Getz, 20, spent 10 weeks at Kew, the premier botanical garden of Europe. Ethridge said out of the hundreds that apply to the program, only 15 are chosen for internship opportunities. Getz, a native of Homewood, earned six credits through the experience and like Ethridge, left his home country and comfort zone in pursuit of adventure.

"After a year of looking at books and studying, going overseas seemed like the adventure I needed in my life," Getz said. "I now believe that the sooner you travel, the better."

While in England, Getz worked in a designated section of the 300-acre garden, tending specially to the Order Beds, which are a systematic arrangement of plants by their family characteristics.

Besides invaluable work experience, Getz chose to make his stay both educational and culturally relevant, quickly immersing himself in the land, sightseeing and connecting with other horticulture students from around the world.

> "I now believe that the sooner you travel the better." - Scott Getz

"The experience has opened my mind to the possibilities within the horticulture/botany fields," he said. "I have also learned about different cultures. My four good friends are Lebanese, French, and Catalonian.
I must say, we made a unique crew."

For Bradley Meyer, the opportunity to study horticulture in Germany for six months was both welcomed and intimidating. His ancestors emigrated from the country in the 19th century, which for Meyer had sparked a cultural interest and a desire to learn the language since childhood. Six months abroad in another country however was something else, since Meyer hails from Custer Park in unincorporated Will County, a small township with an estimated population of only 1,500.

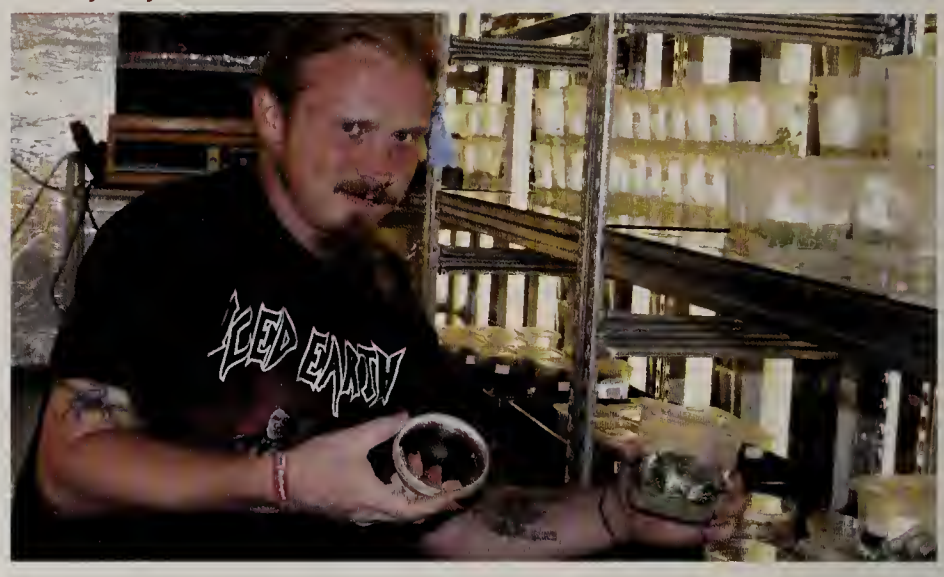
Yet Meyer embraced the opportunity, traveling to the northwestern German suburb of Hannoversch Muenden where he has lived while working for the seed-producing and breeding company, Benary.

Every couple of weeks, Meyer has been introduced to a new department of the company



JJC student Bradley Meyer is studying at Benary, a German seed-producing and breeding company. He is slated to return to the U.S. in early December.

Bradley Meyer



spending some weeks maintaining plants in a greenhouse, some working in the seed technology department to test germination rates, and some performing lab work with tissue cultures of plants.

"The greatest part about these experiences is that I got to see how a foreign company does things I am already familiar with in America," Meyer said. "There are many cultural differences, even within the same field of study. It is important to understand how our global partners work and handle important issues, like environmental concerns."

Like Getz, Meyer has also nourished a desire to learn more about his host country. From sampling different foods to practicing German with his landlord, Meyer interacted with people from all over Europe since Hannoversch Muenden, he explained, is considered a tourist attraction. The town is over 800 years old and many buildings are well over 500 years old.

"I think it is very important for people to explore other countries and learn more about other cultures. This internship has made that possible for me," he said. "I am learning a great deal about my field of study and about the German culture. Thus far, this has been the time of my life."

For Ethridge, international travel is still very much a part of his life. He tries to travel to the Netherlands every other year in an attempt to keep JJC ahead of the curve in education and technology as they relate to greenhouses. To Ethridge, we are a global community in agriculture and horticulture.

"I judge myself by what my students can and do accomplish," he said. "If they can perform well on the world stage then we must be doing something correct at Joliet Junior College."

> "The greatest part about these experiences is that I got to see how a foreign company does things I am already familiar with in America." - Bradley Meyer



For Dr. Ethridge, international travel is still a part of his life.

Jan Walters

Graduate of the college's first vet tech class shares her passion with students

Jan Walters knows her way around Joliet Junior College. The veterinary medical technology instructor has been here before—as a graduate of JJC's first vet tech class, as an adjunct faculty member, and most recently as the vet tech facility manager. Now she leads the next generation of vet techs through the challenging curriculum, one she said rivals the human nursing and technology fields.



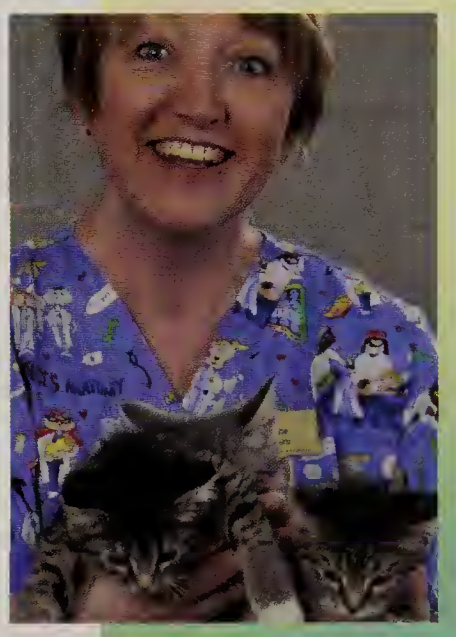
"I can really relate to the students well. This is a tremendously stressful program; it is extremely difficult," Walters says. "When you think about it, our students have to know not just how to be a nurse to one species—they have to know how to do nursing care for everything from snakes to rodents to horses to cows. And they're not just doing nursing care. They're doing laboratory work, radiology, and dentistry. They are doing all of these, whereas in human medicine you would specialize in just one aspect of health care."

When she was in the program, Walters worked 30 hours a week and went to school full time, something nearly all vet tech students do. She says her experiences on both sides of the desk have enabled her to be more than just an instructor, but also a cheerleader and a counselor to her students.

Though her course load keeps her busy, Walters also finds time to delve into two areas of veterinary medicine about which she is passionate—pain management and behavior. Walters says past pain management techniques consisted of keeping the animal quiet and immobile so it wouldn't hurt itself. But thanks to advancements in pharmacology and changes in treatment procedures, the difficulties in assessing and treating pain in animals has become a more successful and humane endeavor.

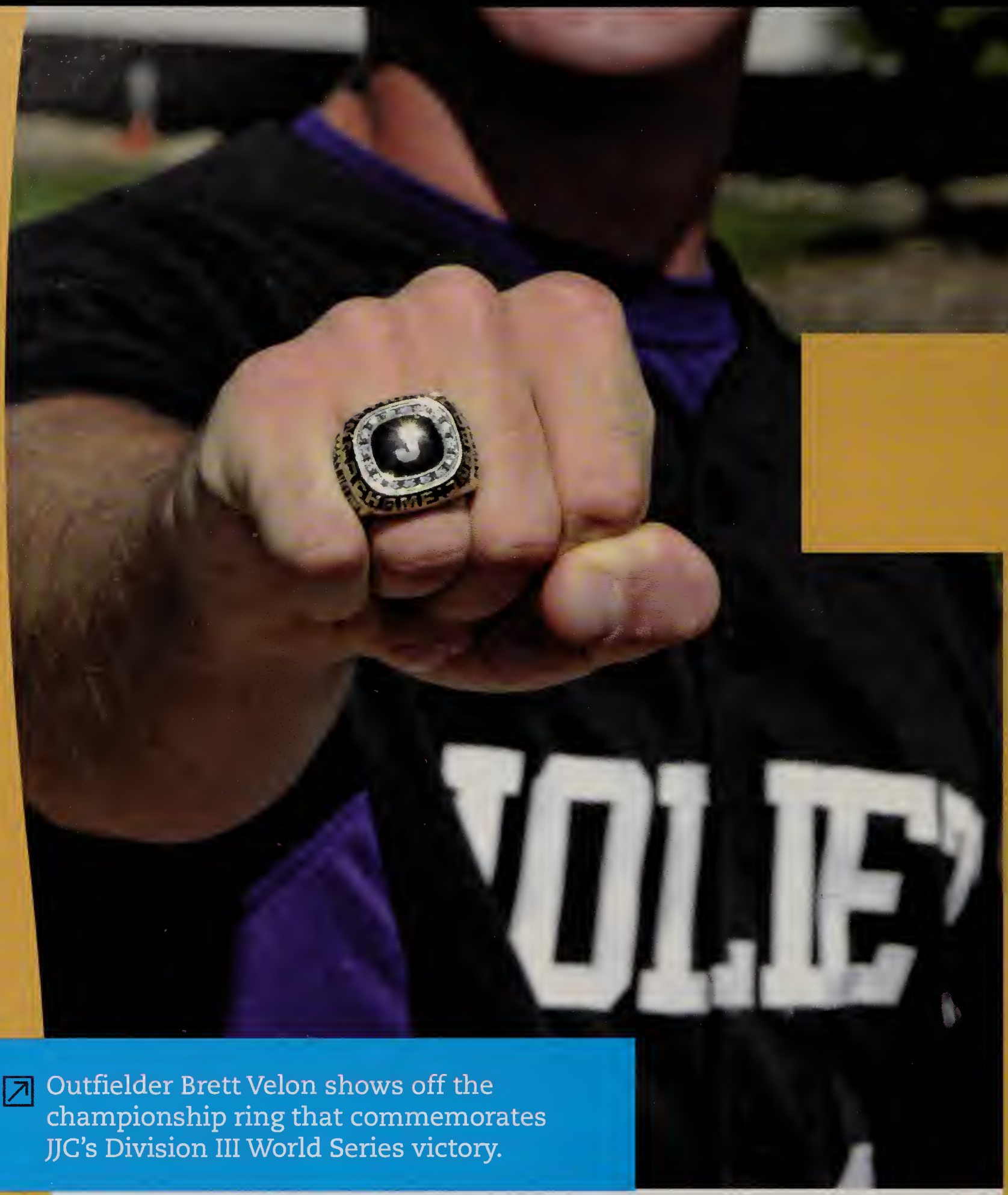


"When you think about it, our students have to know not just how to be a nurse to one species—they have to know how to do nursing care for everything from snakes to rodents to horses to cows." - Jan Walters



"We have such good options. We use the same drugs that they use in human medicine," she says. "It's something veterinary medicine is making a lot of progress on."

Walters, who lives in Channahon, Ill., completed her bachelor's degree in organizational leadership at the University of St. Francis and has written many pet-related articles for the Joliet Herald News.



Outfielder Brett Velon shows off the championship ring that commemorates JJC's Division III World Series victory.

Number 1 in the Nation

JJC Men's Baseball World Series Win Caps a Season of Accomplishments

by **Kelly Rohder**

WORLD SERIES CHAMPS

"Joliet Junior College has a tremendously successful athletic program."

- Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, vice president of student development

Shortly after the men's baseball team won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III World Series championship, Gov. Rod Blagojevich declared Aug. 14 Joliet Junior College Men's Baseball Team Day in Illinois.

The governor's proclamation certainly cements the team's success in JJC athletics history, while the regional and national accomplishments of several JJC players speak to the talent and skill of athletes within the program.

Led by veteran baseball coach and athletic director Wayne King, the Wolves made their third straight World Series appearance this year, traveling to Tyler, Texas (90 miles east of Dallas) in May to compete in the weeklong eight-team, double-elimination series. King has taken the team to the World Series seven times in his 22-year career, winning the title in 1994.

The Wolves' World Series win came after the team won four straight games spanning five days against Montgomery College-Germantown (Md.) and Richland College (Texas). They ultimately defeated the Gloucester County College (N.J.) Roadrunners 9-0 for the title.

The team ended the season with a 49-11 record. Pitcher Dillon Roark of Wilmington, Ill., was named the NJCAA Division III tournament MVP, while coach Wayne King was named the Region IV Coach of the Year. Outfielder Brandon Howard of Coal City was named NJCAA Division III Baseball Player of the Year, finishing the regular season with a .464 batting average, which ranked 10th in the nation.

Shortstop Ed Koncel of Shorewood was still basking in the glow of the team's national title in June when he was drafted in the 13th round (393rd pick) by the Texas Rangers. Koncel, a vital part of the Wolves' run to the 2008 NJCAA Division III



World Series Championship, batted .373 with 72 hits for the season. His 63 RBIs and nine home runs were a team high.

The JJC Athletics Department offers multiple men's and women's sports throughout the school year including football, volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, cheerleading, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and softball.

"Joliet Junior College has a tremendously successful athletic program and we are very proud of the accomplishments of our coaches and our athletes," Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, vice president of student development, said. "Winning a national championship is the pinnacle of success in college sports and it is an accomplishment to be treasured, not just for the elation of the moment but for all of the hard work, dedication, and teamwork required to get there. I applaud the team and coaches for a job well done."

Joliet Junior College would like to thank all who donate time and money to support the college.

Exelon Generation, LLC and Silver Cross Hospital

Exelon establishes scholarship opportunities at the college

The Joliet Junior College Foundation recently secured a total of $30,000 in scholarship money for students in technical programs at the college.

Exelon Generation, LLC established a total scholarship fund of $30,000, to be divided into 10 $3,000 scholarships that were distributed in the fall 2008 semester for students pursuing degrees in applied sciences.

Headquartered in Chicago, Exelon is one of the nation's largest energy companies. In addition to the countless hours of community service performed by employees, Exelon has donated more than $174 million over the past six years to organizations and institutions in communities in which they serve and work.

"Exelon Nuclear is building a strong relationship with Joliet Junior College to foster educational and professional opportunities for its students," said Dan Enright, LaSalle County Generating Station site vice president and Exelon Nuclear's executive sponsor of JJC. "These generous grants will help JJC recruit students to get a high-quality education and open up professional opportunities in technical fields."

Silver Cross Hospital Awards $25,000 in Financial Awards for Tech Students

The JJC Foundation recently received $25,000 from Silver Cross Healthy Community Commission for five $5,000 scholarships. The Silver Cross Hospital Annual Scholarship Fund at the college will provide annual financial awards for students in allied health or technical programs who live in the zip codes of 60432, 60433 and 60436 on the east side of Joliet, where the hospital is located.

Silver Cross Hospital, a not-for-profit health care provider, has been creating world-class health care experiences for the south-west suburban communities for over a century. Silver Cross has been recognized as one of our nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Thomson for four consecutive years and as one of America's Most Customer Friendly Hospitals by the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers.

JJC Foundation

In the past year, the Foundation has provided 794 scholarships to students totaling $680,041.

Since 1973, the Foundation has supported the college's students and faculty, as well as its mission to provide quality educational experiences through equipment, projects and programs.

SUPPORT JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

Make a Gift to JJC online at www.jjc.edu/new/about/foundation/give.aspx.

- **Gifts of cash**
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For more information on giving, contact Kristi Mulvey at (815) 280-2353.

Joliet Junior College
Office of Institutional Advancement

1215 Houbolt Road
Room H-1019
Joliet, IL 60431

Nick Dispenza

Football star tackles fine cuisine



> **"Teachers here are down to earth. They want you to learn. Classes are small and hands-on. It's everything I thought it would be."** - Nick Dispenza

In high school, Nick Dispenza manned the trenches as an offensive lineman for the Joliet Catholic Academy football team. But when it came time for college, he decided to give up the grit of the gridiron for the high pressures of the kitchen.

Now the second-year student who passed up multiple football scholarships is a part of JJC's Culinary Arts Program.

"I had always wanted to go to culinary arts school," he says. "When I started at JJC, I knew it would be challenging but rewarding."

JJC's program is composed of full-time, multi-certified chef and hospitality instructors with a combined total of over 140 years of industry experience.

"Teachers here are down to earth," Dispenza says. "They want you to learn. Classes are small and hands-on. It's everything I thought it would be."

After he has completed his degree at JJC, Dispenza, 20, says he'd like to work at a five-star restaurant, dealing with the fast-paced, busy atmosphere of hot food production – preferably at a resort in Las Vegas. With a primary interest in pastries, the Joliet native says his favorite thing to do in the kitchen is building cakes.

"The thing I like about pastries is that you are able to be creative and really wow your customers not just by how it tastes, but also by their appearance," Dispenza says.

Besides being the first public community college in the nation, JJC also is a pioneer in culinary arts. The college's culinary arts curriculum was developed in 1969, making it the fifth American institution to offer professional training in the culinary arts.

Now, with just over 3,800 culinary training schools in the United States, JJC is still ranked among the best.





Keep up with news, notes and accomplishments from JJC alumni.

Ed Puddicombe



1930s

Ed Puddicombe, '34, passed away March 14, 2008, after a long illness. Puddicombe started his teaching career in the Biology Department at Joliet Township High School and Joliet Junior College, where his major teaching field was human anatomy and physiology. He wrote and illustrated his textbook, "The Human," and sponsored the Students of Medical Sciences Club, which influenced many students to consider the medical field as a profession. In addition to organizing a series of lectures called "Your Doctor Speaks," he was one of the original JJC advisers. When the college moved to the new campus, he sponsored the JJC Fliers. He retired from the college in 1975.

1950s

Phyllis Reynolds (Tedesco) Naylor, '53, received an honorary doctorate from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, in May 2008, for her contributions to children's literature. Reynolds-Naylor is the author of over 130 books for both children and adults. Her film, "Saving Shiloh," was previewed at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet in 2006.

1960s

Dr. Irwin Mann, '60, JJC freshman class president, has recently been elected president of the Big Chief Chorus, from the Pontiac/ Waterford Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

James E. Garrison, '61, is a judge who is assigned to civil jury cases and supervising judge of court-annexed arbitration.

Susan (Pierson) Sonderby, '67, is a U.S. bankruptcy judge who lives in Chicago.

Mary Ann Baskerville-Davies, '67, recently retired from teaching and administration in the social work program at Massey University, Palmerston North in New Zealand after 29 years. She is embarking upon a private social work practice on a part-time basis and works in her husband's exercise equipment repair business.

Dr. William Hayes, '69, recently published his third novel, "Hearsay, Watercolor Memories of Roxie Mallone." He is the author of two other books entitled, "A Sentimental Journey" and "Rebels with a Cause." Dr. Hayes is a senior professor at DeVry University in Addison, Ill., where he teaches composition and literature classes. He received his doctorate in adult education from Northern Illinois University, a master's degree in English from Governors State University, a master's degree in education from Illinois State University, and a bachelor's degree in English from Southern Illinois University. He and his wife reside in the Chicagoland area.

1970s

Bruce Bugajski, '71, retired from teaching science at Sierra Middle School in Tucson, Ariz., and also retired from working for United Airlines at the Tucson Airport in 2005.

Bill O'Connell attended JJC from 1970-1972. A former editor of the college's student newspaper, he is an editor at the Chicago Tribune. O'Connell authored his first book, "Fourteen: The Murder of David Stukel." In it, he explores one of the most heinous but least publicized crimes in Illinois history: the 1968 abduction, sexual assault, and murder of fourteen-year-old David Stukel by teenage bullies near Joliet East High School.

Norma (Weber) Hajik, 74, resides in Denver, Colorado, where she works for Uni Path Laboratories as a cytotechnologist.

Brian Berg, '78, works as an accounting manager for Diversified CPC International, Inc. He was also recently awarded the Certified Management Accountant designation with successful completion of the November 2007 exam.

1980s

Margot Sieracki, '80, just completed 20 years at United Cerebral Palsy. She is also a member of Joliet Quilters Guild and The Red Hat Society. She has two sons, Joel and Jeff, with her husband, James, of 45 years.

Jeff Weingart, '86, resides in Burlington, Wisc., where he is the vice president of operations for SCA Packaging.

William C. Birkett, '86, resides in Portland, Ore., where he works in the Department of Homeland Security as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for ICE.

Paulette Foco, '89, lives in Saginaw, Mich., with her husband, Robert. She is a staff nurse at Bay Regional Medical Center.

1990s

Clarice (Bach) Marinello, '90, resides in West Warwick, R.I., where she is a business systems analyst for Toray Plastics (America), Inc.

Dale Butler, '91, lives in Joliet with his wife, Annette Gonzales.

Kyle Kobe, '96, moved to California in 2001 to became a biology teacher at Beverly Hills High School. He is currently working on his master's degree and hopes to complete it by summer 2009.

Ryan Mulvihill, '98, lives in Plainfield, Ill., with wife, Jamie Kernc-Mulvihill.

Sara (Moses) Sharp, '99, volunteers at her local church nursery with husband, Daniel.

2000s

Regina (Provenzale) Vescovi, '03, lives in Roselle, Ill., with husband, Anthony. She is a lab technician for Keystone Aniline Corporation.

Mert Izgi, '03, resides in Ankara, Turkey, where he worked as a restaurant manager for two years in a Swiss hotel. He now is an area manager at ISS facility services company.

Donald C. (Goodman) Terry, '04, was president of JJC Student Government for two years. He then went on to Governors State University where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration and technology. He is employed with the Social Security Administration.

David Nietzold, '05, transferred to Northern Illinois University where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. He now lives in Chicago and is a lab technician for Sanford.

Maria (Sortino) Dokianos, '06, has two children, Victoria and Gabriele, with husband, Christopher. She is currently attending Lewis University.

Greg Salyer, '06, lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he is the head groundskeeper for West Michigan White Caps.

Corry Little, '06, has two children, Paige and Brian, with wife, Dawn. He is the chef assistant at Country Mansion.

Juan Ortiz, '07, has earned the title of Chef de Cuisine at Royal Hawk Country Club in St. Charles. Since graduating from JJC, he has donated his time by speaking at local high schools in low-income areas to help motivate young people to achieve great things.





We need your e-mail address and other pertinent information about you, your family, your career, and any news you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**

2008 Golf Outing

Joliet Junior College Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank...

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Laurie McPhillips
Sharon Medek
Kristi Mulvey
Kelly Myers
Gena Proulx, Ph.D.
Geoff Rusch
Ryan Smith, Ph.D.
Delia Ulloa-Jimenez
Marie Wilson
Pat Van Dyne

Golf Winners

First Place Team	Roger D'Orazio Bill Greiner Chuck Homolka Jim Lacey
Longest Drive	Rolf Troha (men's) Terry Ready (women's)
Closest to the Pin	Jim Ringer and Wade Cooper

Top raffle prizes included $1,000 cash prize and a $200 gas gift certificate

JJC Foundation 2008 Golf Outing Committee

Richard DeGrush, Co-Chair
Joe Burla, Co-Chair
Dick Dystrup
Bill Greiner
Wayne Klasing
Bob Klein
Sharon Medek
Kristin Mulvey

2008-2009 Calendar

2008

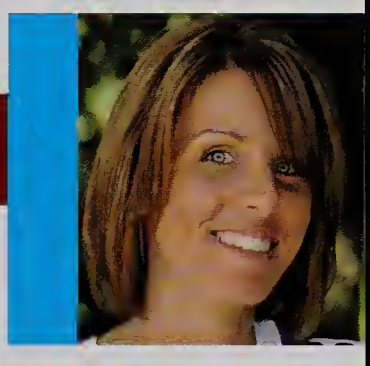
Nov 12 or 19 / JJC Foundation Board Annual Meeting (11 a.m., Renaissance Center, Main Campus)

Nov 13 / Success Story Series, Dick Smerz ('00), Agriculture as a Second Career (12 noon, T-1001)

Dec 1 / JJC Employees Alumni Reception (Board Room, J-2026, Main Campus)

Dec 17 / JJC Foundation Executive Committee Meeting (7:30 a.m., Board Room, J-2026, Main Campus)





Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for event additions and updates.

2009

Jan 15 / JJC Foundation Board Meeting (7:30 a.m. Board Room, J-2026, Main Campus)

Feb 2 / Alumni Board Meeting (7 p.m., President's Board Room, Main Campus)

Feb 5 / Success Story Series, Jeremy Richardson ('98), JJC Head Football Coach, Jeremy Richardson (12 noon, T-1001, Main Campus)

Feb 19 / JJC Foundation Executive Committee Meeting (7:30 a.m., Board Room, J-2026, Main Campus)

Feb 22 / Annual Scholarship Recognition Event, (3 p.m. Renaissance Center)

Feb 25 / Alumni Scholarship Application Event (In conjunction with FAFSA workshop, 5 – 8 p.m., D Concourse, Main Campus)

Mar 12 / Success Story Series, JJC Faculty Alumni Panel: Jim Baskin ('88), Virginia Bouie ('85), Mike Hainzinger (attended JJC, did not graduate) and Stacey Murphy ('95) (12 noon, T-1000, Main Campus)

Mar 7 or 14 / Alumni Comedy Night, JJC Fine Arts Theatre, (Main Campus)

Mar 19 / JJC Foundation Board Meeting (7:30 a.m., Board Room, J-2026, Main Campus)

Apr 6 / Alumni Board Meeting (7 p.m., President's Board Room, Main Campus)

Apr 9 / Success Story Series, Sue Bornhofen ('79, '81), Hospitality Management (12 noon, T-1001, Main Campus)

Apr 15 / JJC Foundation Executive Committee Meeting (7:30 a.m., Board Room, J-202, Main Campus)

Apr 16 / JJC Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner (5:30 p.m., Renaissance Center)

Jun 7 / 28th Annual Alumni Brunch (11 a.m., Renaissance Center)

Jun 15 / JJC Foundation Golf Outing (11:30 a.m. registration, Joliet Country Club)

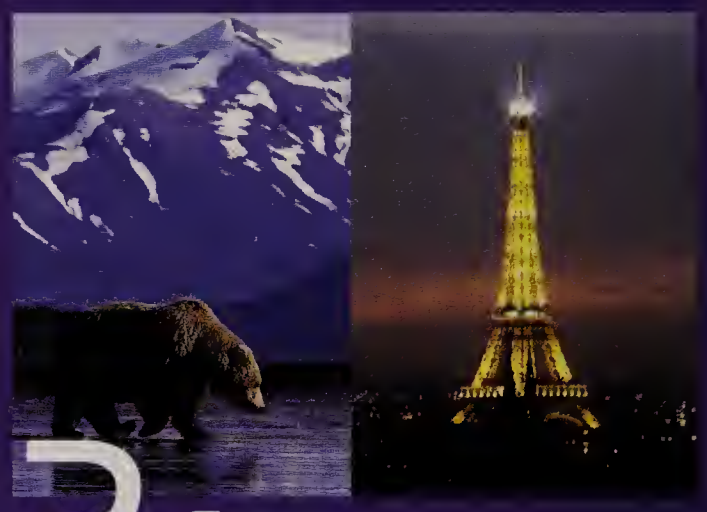




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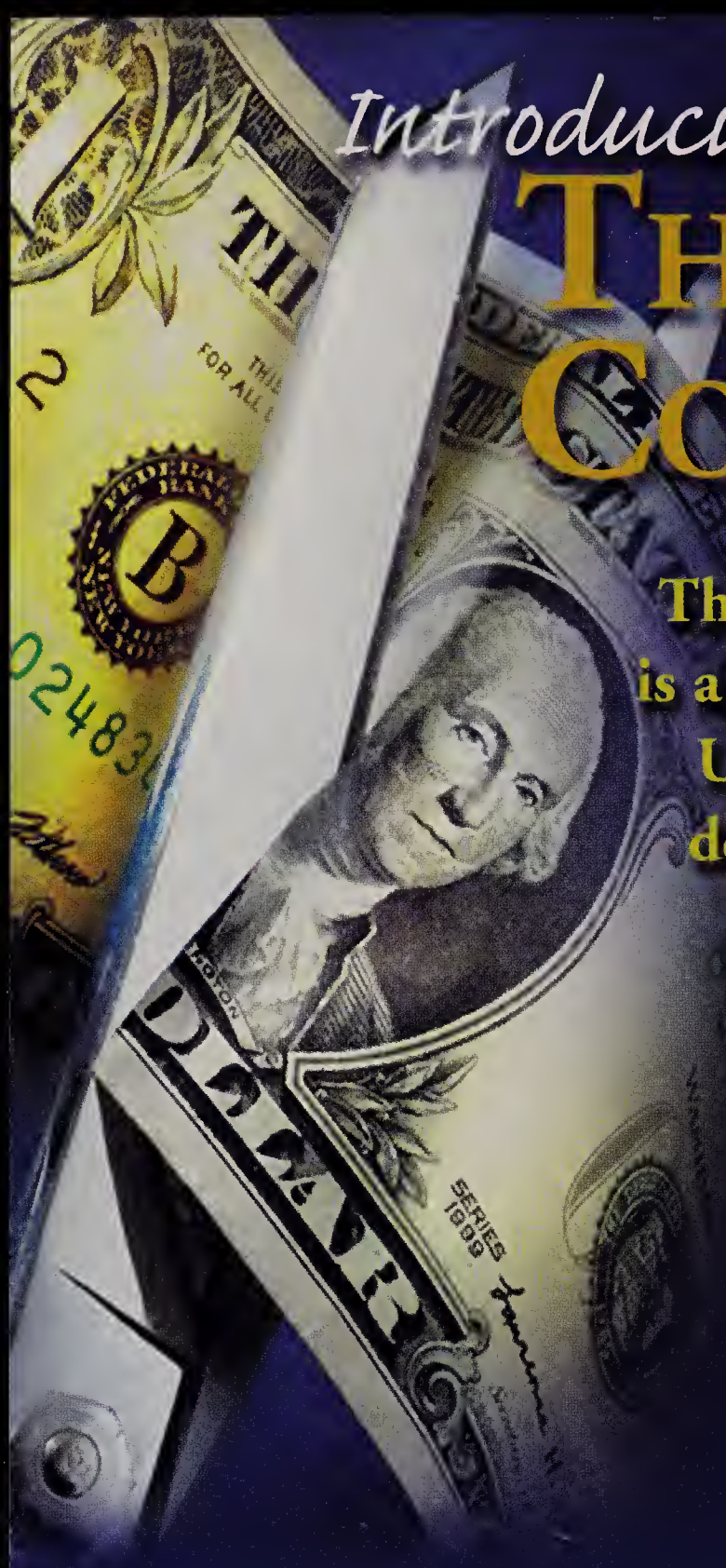
joliet junior college magazine

FUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION IN A CHANGING ECONOMY:
HOW THE JJC REFERENDUM SUCCEEDED

FIRST LOOK AT THE NEW CAMPUS CENTER

FACULTY TRIP TO CHINA BRINGS NEW CLASSROOM PERSPECTIVE

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Joliet Junior College
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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JJC Music Professor



Culinary Olympic Gold



JJC Master Plan



CONNECTIONS

Indeed, we live in historic times. The federal government has passed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, totaling more than $780 billion in spending and tax relief.

Though it is unclear what the impact of this significant federal investment will be, we do know community colleges will benefit from the higher education funding included in the legislation.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, more than 11 million students, or 46 percent of the U.S. undergraduate population, are enrolled at community colleges. Because of their quality and affordability, community colleges, and their graduates, are poised to have a meaningful impact on the country's financial recovery.

Despite tough economic times, Joliet Junior College continues to be a leader in the community. In this issue, we discuss the JJC referendum—its influence on the local economy and how the nation's financial condition affected its outcome—as well as give tips on how to be an active donor in the current economy.

Finally, we present the Annual Report, which provides detailed fiscal information about the college and the JJC Foundation.

Regardless of economic conditions, Joliet Junior College's commitment to providing valuable educational and career opportunities endures. It is a connection to the community that will remain despite the radically shifting world around us.

Jeff Julian
Editor

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine will serve as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Publications, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Information subject to change.





Dear Alumni and Friends:

Life is a journey. Any journey worth going on allows opportunities for growth and helps us to identify our strengths so that we can follow the best path. This is exactly what JJC gives its students: opportunities. In fact, it is our mission to enrich people's lives through affordable and accessible quality programs and services.

Yet, we offer more than that. We are the gateway to higher education for over 14,000 students each semester. I began my journey at JJC, and it gave me an opportunity to understand what would be required of me as a college student. When I look back, I realize what I gained at JJC was not just a great education, but the tools I needed to navigate my way through my undergraduate degree.

As we evolve, our opportunities also grow and change. JJC continues to be the launching pad for creating the connections that you will need in your education, career and personal development. We offer many important opportunities for adult education, professional development, short-term career training, lifelong learning, and workforce development, including Plus 50 workshops and services.

If you are a graduate of the college, you can take advantage of many services including career counseling, resume writing/review, job search skills training or information regarding job fairs. Other alumni benefits include JJC library privileges for residents of District 525 and access to cultural events. For a full list of alumni benefits and to learn about upcoming alumni events, visit www.jjc.edu/alumni. Please take a moment to update your contact information at www.jjc.edu/info/alumni.

Wishing you all of the best,

Kelly Myers
Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations



"The energy in Washington, D.C.,
was indescribable." — ***Charles Morgan***

JJC Music Professor Gives Command Performance at Presidential Inauguration

By Kelly Rohder



Charles Morgan was nine years old when he first picked up a trombone. Twenty-eight years later, his mastery of the instrument garnered an extraordinary opportunity: the chance to perform during the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Morgan, an assistant professor of music at JJC, played at the Bipartisan Agriculture Inaugural Ball with the 1960s pop group The Buckinghams—a band that he's toured and recorded several albums with over the last decade. Morgan said he considers himself fortunate to be a part of the event.

"The energy in Washington, D.C., was indescribable," he said. "I have never seen so many people gathered together in one place, and everyone was celebrating. It is something I will remember forever."

Morgan began teaching at JJC in 1998, but his affiliation with the college extends back to 1988 when he was a music student in the Fine Arts Department. Now, in addition to teaching classes, the New Lenox native and JJC alumnus is the music coordinator and music adviser in the department. He also directs the JJC Jazz Band and the JJC Community Band.

When he's not making music or teaching, Morgan's own tastes are diverse. A look at his iPod reveals tracks by Urbie Green, a jazz trombonist, and the big band-infused sounds of the Stan Kenton Orchestra, nestled between a classical symphony by Brahms and a sonata by Beethoven.

The Fine Arts Department's music program includes an extensive curriculum of more than thirty courses.

Nationally accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) since 2002, the program offers students a comprehensive two-year program in all major areas, coursework transferable to most four-year colleges, and a state-of-the-art music computer keyboard lab.

"Working with our students is what I enjoy most here at JJC," Morgan said. "As director of bands, I have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students who collaborate to make music. It does not get any better than that."

"Working with our students is what I enjoy most here at JJC."— *Charles Morgan*

Funding Higher Education in a Changing Economy

How the JJC Referendum Succeeded

By Kelly Rohder



For most Americans, Nov. 4, 2008, is etched into memory as the day Barack Obama was elected as the nation's first African-American president.

For those who are affiliated with the nation's first public community college, Nov. 4 is representative of another historic victory.

As the rest of the country learned of Obama's win, the success of the $89 million Joliet Junior College building bond referendum—the first JJC referendum to pass in over 30 years—was confirmed as polls closed.

Passed by a 52-48 margin, the referendum question—placed on ballots in JJC's seven-county district—asked taxpayers to support a building bond to ultimately fund projects that would allow the college to expand critical programs, train more workers and supply the faltering economy with 8,000 jobs.

On the surface, it seemed impossible to pass the measure. With two previous referendum failures on the record books in 2002 and 2003, the campaign effort faced local skepticism and a 7.3 percent state unemployment rate, colored by the financial fallout of the subprime mortgage industry and the collapse of pillar lending institutions Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers.

Despite the year's volatility, the JJC referendum passed—while other school referenda on the same general election ballot failed.

It's hard not to wonder what the recipe for success was. The win was in some ways shocking to some of the college administrators and campaign organizers, too.

"It was one of those rare surprises," David Agazzi, JJC vice president of administrative services and campaign committee member, said. "To me, the best part was having the validation from the community that we were going in the right direction."

For Dr. Gena Proulx, JJC president, the 2008 referendum was the right thing to do for the college, as well as her first campaign experience.

"Early on [election night] the numbers were coming in positively, so I was on a high and continually asking myself 'could this really be?'" Proulx said. "More than anything, I was thrilled for the Citizens for JJC Committee and the college team that worked so hard to make the referendum a success. I still can't believe that we did it!"

Tammie Beckwith Schallmo, managing director with PMA Securities, Inc., worked with the college to help structure and sell its debt to investors and advise on the referendum plan.

According to her, there were three primary factors that ensured the success of

November's referendum, despite the soured economy: a new financial strategy, timing, and a change in the content of messages communicated to voters.

"Will County has continued to experience fast growth in recent years, and voters have been presented with numerous referenda for other governmental bodies, most notably K-12 school districts," Schallmo said. "By presenting the voters with a shared financial responsibility for the college's entire master plan, it conveyed a message that the college did not expect the taxpayers to bear the entire financial burden. This action likely made the referendum more palatable."

Agazzi, who said the college began thinking about the 2008 referendum as early as three years prior, is on the college's six-member Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT–which is comprised of vice presidents from the college's five divisions and the human resources director–forms the college's leadership along with the JJC president.

"It's our job to make recommendations that are in the best interest of the college," Agazzi said. "It's our responsibility to the students and to the community."

The proposal for the referendum came to fruition as the college was putting together a funding strategy for its facilities master plan. Every five years, the Illinois Community College Board requires institutions to update their master plans, which serve as blueprints for the physical space of the college.

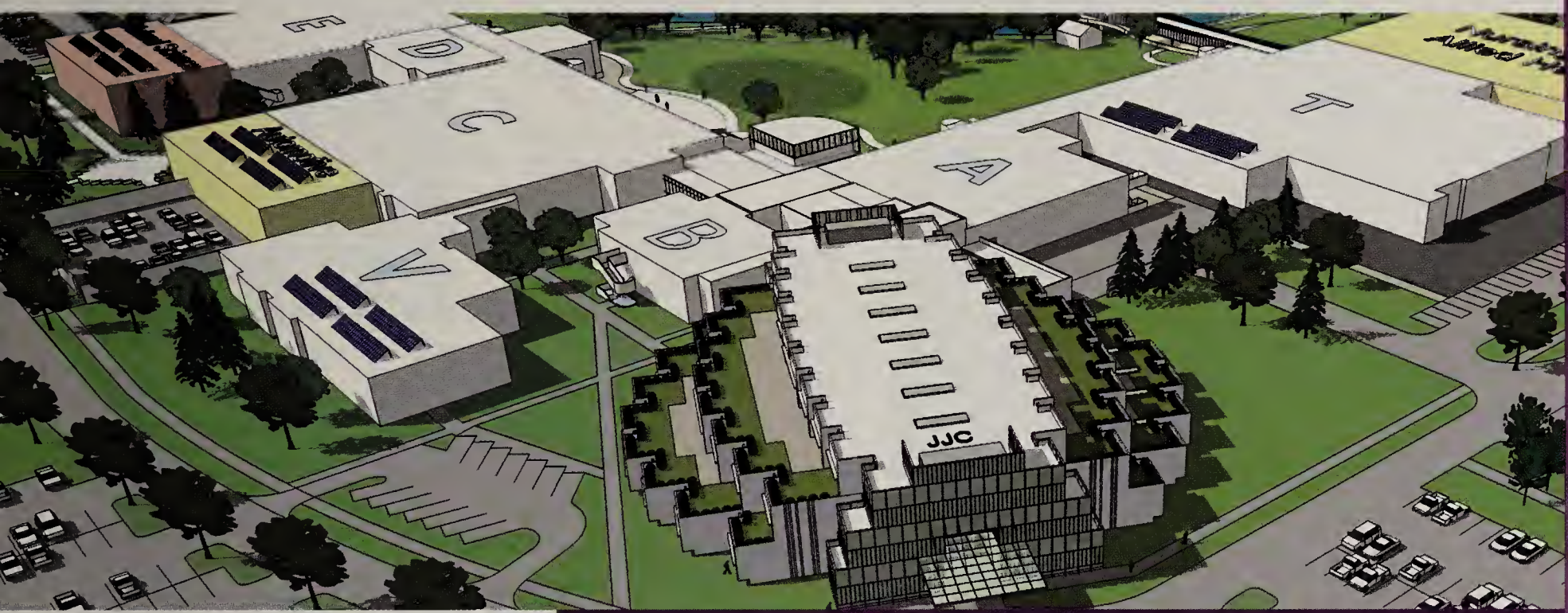
After the college formed a steering committee and assessed the current and future needs of JJC, one thing was painfully clear: to effectively serve and educate the rapidly growing community (Will County alone is estimated to have one million residents by 2030) the college needed new and expanded facilities to conduct critical programs and train workers.

The master plan detailed a massive overhaul of the Main Campus, which hadn't seen any major physical changes since 1974. College administrators presented the master plan to the JJC Board of Trustees in March 2008. By April, it had received unanimous board approval. After conquering the first hurdle, it was time to examine a funding strategy to support the $220 million price tag.

From the beginning, the financial strategy proposed was one of shared responsibility by students, taxpayers, and private and not-for-profit partnerships. This time, instead of asking voters to pay for growth, Agazzi said the shared responsibility concept directed that each demographic would be financially responsible for the resources that it would benefit from.

To Agazzi, a financial strategy that emphasized shared responsibility among students, taxpayers and community partners was a fiscally responsible choice, and one that would not only improve the college's infrastructure, but prepare it for the future.

"Breaking the financial responsibility for the master plan into three pieces lowered the impact on taxpayers," Schallmo added. "The referendum portion of the master plan was about job creation—which is a



Pictured are three of the four major projects supported by the referendum: expansion of the science labs, expansion of automotive technology, and a new nursing and allied health building.

Master Plan Projects List

The 2008-2013 master plan calls for many exciting improvements to Joliet Junior College.

- Construction of a new Nursing and Allied Health building on the Main Campus
- Eight new science labs and the renovation of all existing labs
- Expansion of the auto shop
- New culinary and hospitality facility at the City Center Campus
- New campus center that consolidates all student services and administration in one location
- New library at the campus center
- Total renovation of all classrooms including new technology, furniture, painting and flooring
- New walking/bike paths that will connect the arboretum, lake, courtyard and natural areas to the I&M Canal paths
- Sustainability elements such as LEED certification for new buildings, use of alternative energy sources such as geo-thermal and solar, permeable parking lots and an educational trail.

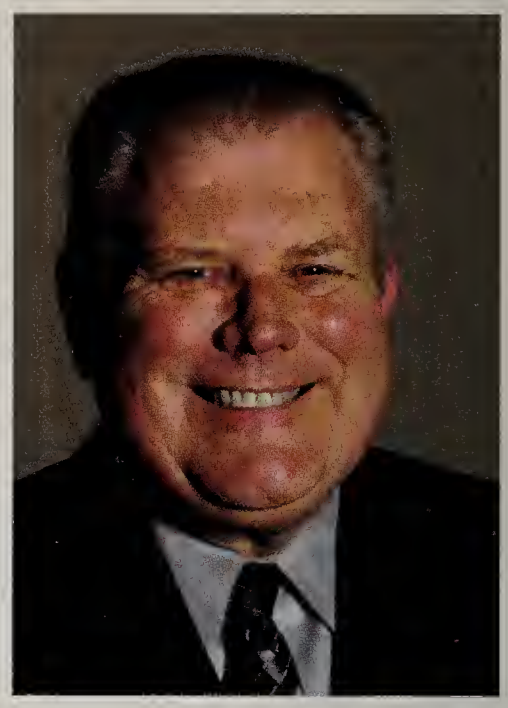
key issue for many individuals, particularly in this challenging economy–while the financial impact on a homeowner for the referendum was very modest."

On May 6, 2008, the Board of Trustees agreed and approved the funding strategy, leaving only six months for supporters of the referendum to assemble a grassroots campaign and defy skepticism in the community that the strategy was a wasted effort.

"I was so new to the referendum process that skepticism was not on my radar screen," Proulx said. "I was concerned with the 'how to' and the 'nuts and bolts' of how to make this happen—moving ahead with a referendum felt comfortable, natural and the right way to be heading."

The campaign effort, led by the Citizens for JJC Committee, was co-chaired by Dr. James Waldorf, mayor of Plainfield, and Dr. Cecil Ingmire, a retired Joliet veterinarian. For the community, the names were familiar: both Waldorf and Ingmire had chaired the 2002 JJC referendum campaign.

Ingmire's involvement with the college goes back to the late 1960s, when he was elected to the college's first board of trustees in 1967. He also took part in the college's first referendum, which was successful in establishing JJC's seven-county district, Community College District 525.



Dr. James Waldorf

"It is the low-cost factor that worked [in the 2008 referendum]," Ingmire said. "It's remarkable really. The record of referenda in this area in the past has been defeatist. ... I was very pleased when I learned it passed."

While some thought the unstable economy would influence voters to strike down the measure, Ingmire thought the downward spiral of the country's financial system helped their cause.

"I think more parents recognized that other schools were getting too expensive and wanted to support JJC because of the low cost [to attend] and high quality of the education," he said.

The support from JJC faculty and alumni also played a large part, Ingmire added.

"We have 38,000 alums. They know the value of the college," he said.

And so, with a new financial plan, strategists focused on gathering statistics from the Illinois State Board of Elections and the Illinois



Dr. Cecil Ingmire

Association of School Administrators on past area elections.

What the data showed was a relatively high success rate for referenda in the years of a presidential election. This, coupled with the already large group of young voters that had outwardly mobilized for the presidential campaign, was helpful to the organizing group in determining what demographics to campaign to in the months and weeks leading up to the election.

"In November, many young people voted because they were motivated by the presidential campaign," said Gay Campbell, a Washington state-based consultant who specializes in communication plans and strategies for school referenda elections.

Campbell added that there were larger numbers of 18-24 year olds voting in the election along with a more diverse electorate.

Indeed, according to statistics from U.S. News and World Report, the 2008 election represented the highest voter turnout since 1908 with 136.6 million voters, up 64.1 percent from 2004.

"I think more parents recognized that other schools were getting too expensive and wanted to support JJC because of the low cost [to attend] and high quality of the education."

— Dr. Cecil Ingmire

Information about the college's master plan was distributed through brochures, advertisements, e-mails to students and staff, an informational master plan movie posted on the video-sharing Web site YouTube, and through a community outreach program, amongst other media outlets.

But it was the content of these communication tools that ultimately proved valuable to the public. In the end, a consistent, simple message that focused on job creation and a low cost to taxpayers was the key in generating internal employee and external community buy-in to the plan.

When out in the community, supporters frequently talked about the low cost to taxpayers of an approved referendum measure—only $15 per year on a $200,000 home—as well as the creation of 8,000 jobs, with 2,000 going toward direct and indirect construction jobs and 6,000 jobs the result of increased training opportunities at the college.

The positive effect of the JJC master plan and referendum on the local economy was too significant to ignore.

"The construction of the new facilities will provide jobs in various trades over the next couple of years," Schallmo said. "Once the projects are complete, residents will be able to further their educations at JJC and ultimately become a trained and skilled workforce upon graduation. These individuals will then hopefully



Faculty member Gwen Beam works with students in JJC's nursing program.

New walking and bike paths that will connect the arboretum, lake, courtyard and natural areas to the I&M Canal paths are included in the Master Plan.

secure employment in the area and contribute back to the local economy."

While the impact of the referendum on the local economy will be undeniable, the college itself will also begin to look dramatically different as projects are completed. A new Nursing and Allied Health building, eight new science labs and the renovation of all existing labs, expansion of the auto shop, and a new culinary and hospitality facility at the City Center Campus are all on the horizon as a result of the referendum.

The college is still in the programming and design phase for most of the projects, a process which can take upwards of nine months to finalize.

"This is an exciting time in the history of JJC," Agazzi said. "All of the projects will build on the tradition of excellence for which the college is known." ▲



The referendum funds eight new science labs and the renovation of all existing labs.

Restoration of Natural Areas: A Master Plan Priority



Less than 0.01 percent of Illinois' native prairie remains intact, according to Andrew Neill, professor of biology at JJC. This makes restoration a vital priority in not only maintaining local biological resources, but also preserving educational opportunities for future generations.

As a major component of Joliet Junior College's master plan, approximately 124 acres of natural areas on the Main Campus will be restored to their native plant composition over the next few years.

"The ecological restoration work that has been proposed for the college's natural areas is similar to work being done by forest preserve districts in the Chicago region following best practices," said Neill. "In general, natural areas are being restored to the way they were before major European settlement in 1820."

Due to decades of use as a farm, the landscape was invaded by non-native plants that drove out the native species, of which very few remain today. The restoration process will re-introduce many native plants including tall and mid-sized grasses, which dominated the landscape centuries ago.

The restoration will have an impact far beyond the immediate campus and even the surrounding areas.

Benefits of the restoration project:

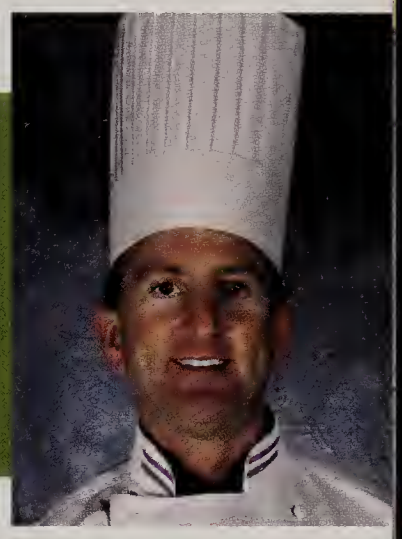
- **Native plants will be restored**
- **New food sources will be available for pollinator insects**
- **An expanded and diverse bird community will develop**
- **Enrichment of JJC's outdoor learning laboratory**
- **New learning and teaching opportunities for students, instructors and community members**

SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS



Congratulations to Karl Brooks, JJC dean of student success, who was selected as a co-chair for the National Leadership Symposium, which brings together leadership educators from around the country to engage in a topic and curriculum of study to support undergraduate student leadership development.

Congratulations to Chef Michael McGreal, who was named 2009 Educator of the Year by the Foodservice Educators Network International (FENI). Following an exhaustive evaluation by four judges representing various facets of the foodservice industry, McGreal was selected as the winner in the postsecondary category. McGreal is the chair of JJC's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Department.

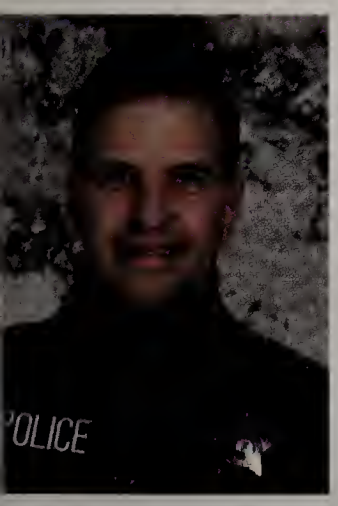




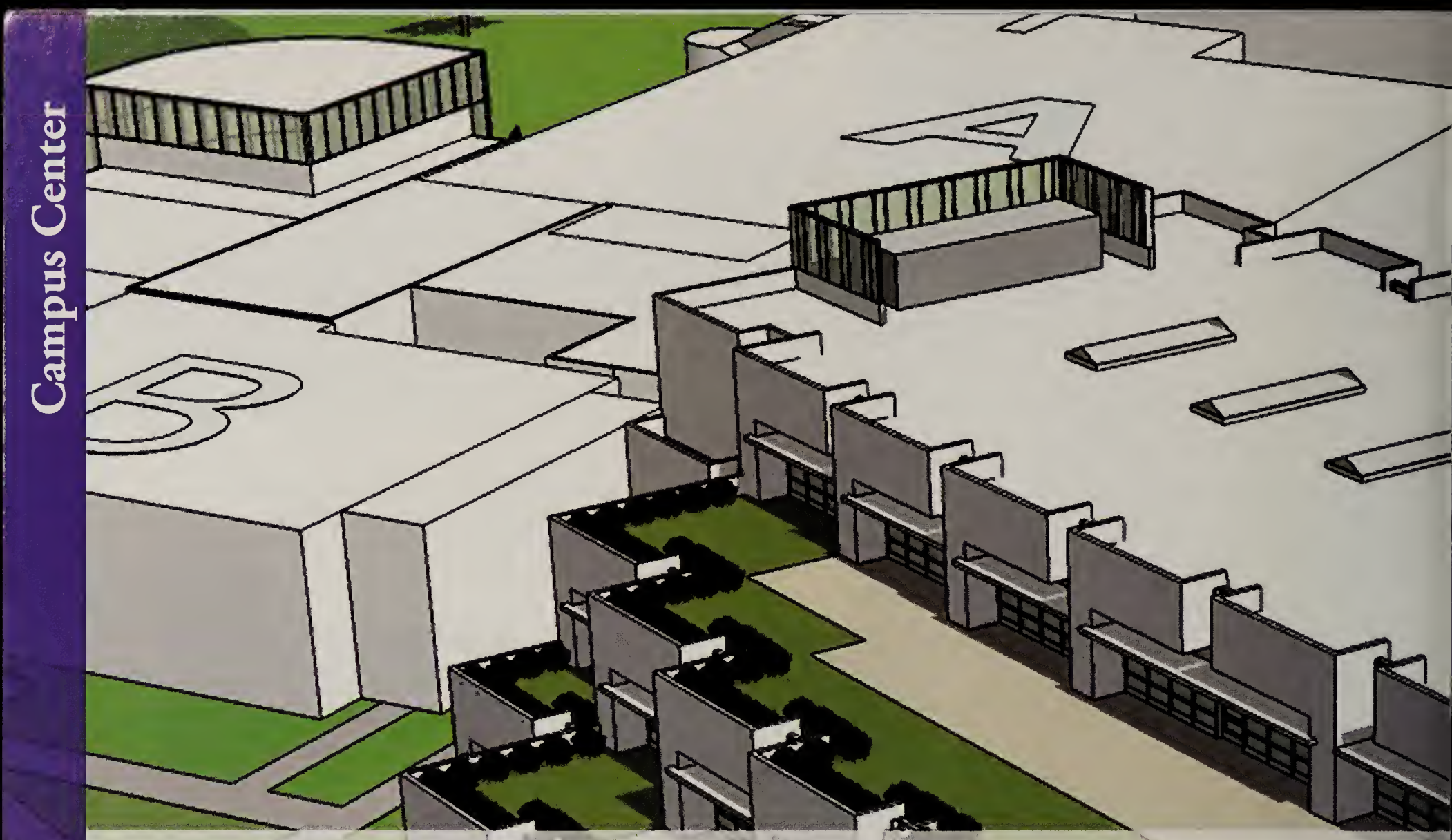
Congratulations to retired physics faculty member Curt Hieggelke, who was named a 2009 Excellence in Physics Education Award Recipient by the American Physical Society for leadership in introducing physicists in two-year colleges to new instructional methods, in developing new materials based on physics education research, and in fostering faculty networking, particularly in two-year colleges.



Congratulations to Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, vice president for student development, who has been elected to serve on the directorate for the American College Personnel Association. ACPA is one of the two largest national student development professional associations in the country.



Congratulations to Campus Police Officer Paul Jerantowski, who was mobilized, along with 100 other police officers from Illinois, to provide security at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., in September 2008. Jerantowski is assigned to the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Mobile Field Force 3, which is a multi-jurisdictional tactical response team made up of 70 police officers from Will, Grundy and Kendall Counties. The team can be called up to assist agencies during times of natural or man-made disasters, civil disorder or planned events.



Creating a New Front Door

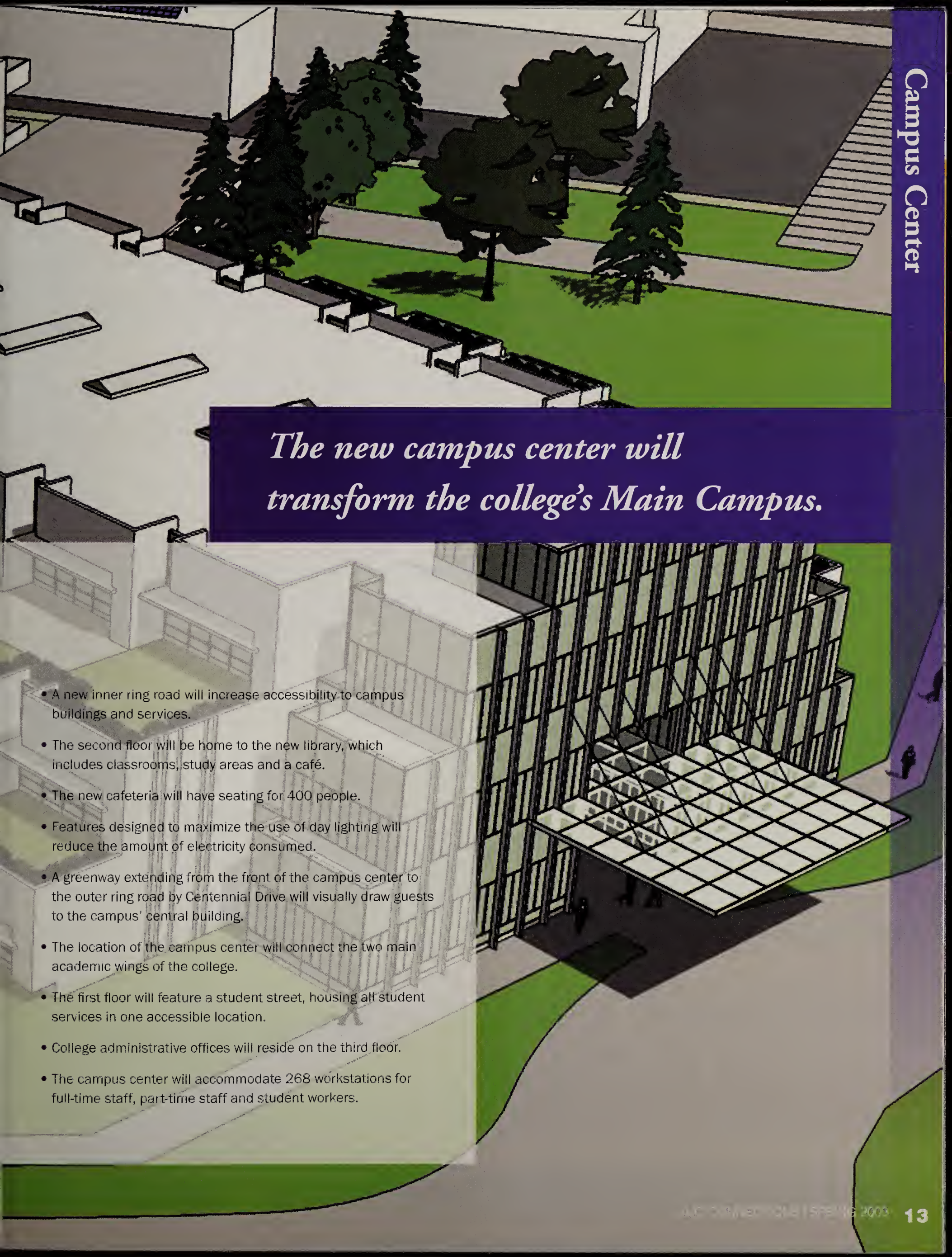
By Rachel Rose

JJC's new campus center, one of the first buildings to be constructed as part of the college's master plan, is poised to alter the appearance and the accessibility of the Main Campus significantly.

Jeff Sronkoski of Legat Architects explains that the campus center will improve the functionality of the college in many ways. By consolidating student services, which are currently scattered throughout campus buildings, Sronkoski says the center will improve accessibility for all campus visitors, and it will give the Main Campus an official "front door," which it currently lacks. Groundbreaking is scheduled for summer 2009, and completion is projected for 2011.

Features of the Campus Center

- Approximately 650 additional parking spaces will be added around the new campus center.
- The campus center will feature 110,000 gross square feet for student services and academic support offices.
- The building will incorporate several features designed to meet LEED Gold certification standards, the nationally accepted benchmark for environmentally responsible buildings.
- The building will be heated and cooled through the use of geothermal energy, which takes advantage of the earth's constant temperature to reduce the use of other energy sources.
- Green roofs will be accessible from the second and third floors.

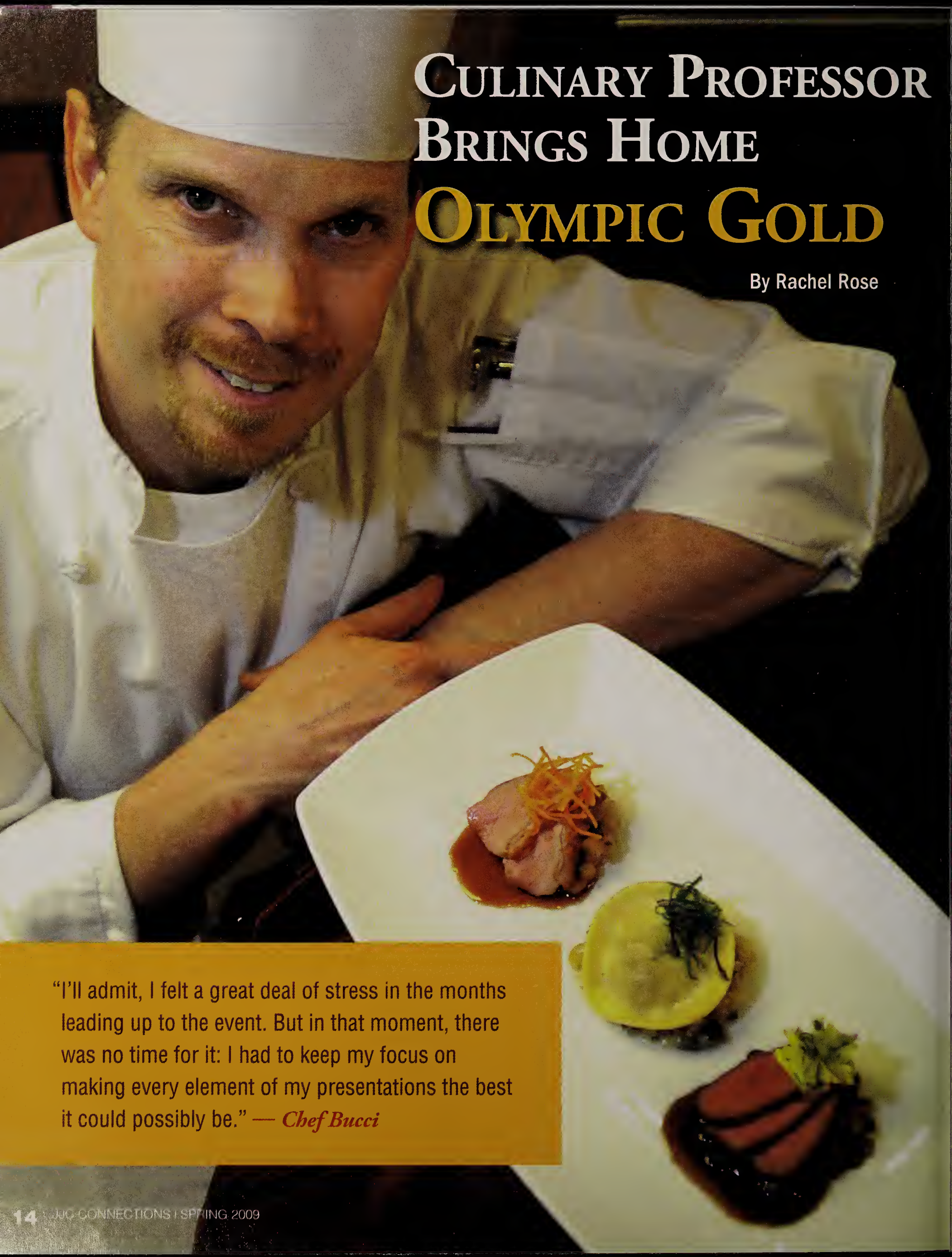


The new campus center will transform the college's Main Campus.

- A new inner ring road will increase accessibility to campus buildings and services.
- The second floor will be home to the new library, which includes classrooms, study areas and a café.
- The new cafeteria will have seating for 400 people.
- Features designed to maximize the use of day lighting will reduce the amount of electricity consumed.
- A greenway extending from the front of the campus center to the outer ring road by Centennial Drive will visually draw guests to the campus' central building.
- The location of the campus center will connect the two main academic wings of the college.
- The first floor will feature a student street, housing all student services in one accessible location.
- College administrative offices will reside on the third floor.
- The campus center will accommodate 268 workstations for full-time staff, part-time staff and student workers.

Culinary Professor Brings Home Olympic Gold

By Rachel Rose



"I'll admit, I felt a great deal of stress in the months leading up to the event. But in that moment, there was no time for it: I had to keep my focus on making every element of my presentations the best it could possibly be." — *Chef Bucci*

A professional chef for 18 years, Bucci has refined his culinary techniques participating in local, regional and national contests, familiarizing himself with the competitive atmosphere. — *Chef Bucci*

Olympic athletes don't need to be told that there is no room for error. They know that in order to win the gold medal, there is only room for absolute perfection. They spend years practicing, training, sweating, working, failing and succeeding to prepare for that very moment. They experience both intense pressure and profound satisfaction knowing it is a moment that can validate those countless hours of preparation and give them an exhilarating sense of pride.

Chef Tim Bucci understands what that pressure feels like. The JJC professor of culinary arts and alumnus of the college also knows the euphoria that comes with reaching the pinnacle of success: winning an Olympic gold medal.

Bucci competed last October in the World Culinary Olympics, the ultimate global competition for culinary professionals. One of his entries, a wild sockeye salmon and sturgeon buffet platter for eight that included six appetizer plates of lobster, quail, rabbit, vegetarian, rainbow trout, and pork, won the gold medal in its category.

Held every four years in Erfurt, Germany, the event provides a venue for culinary professionals from around the world to showcase their innovations and convene with their peers to discuss the latest developments in their field.

Chefs often prepare for years before they enter the World Culinary Olympics. The intensity and high degree of difficulty is reserved for only the best in the discipline. Bucci was one of 1,600 chefs from 54 countries competing for gold medals in several different categories.

"The level of competition at the Olympics is like nothing I've ever experienced before," Bucci reflected. "The tension is palpable—every chef at the competition had worked very hard to get there, and they were there to do their very best work. I felt the same way. I'd spent years preparing and training for this competition."

A professional chef for 18 years, Bucci has refined his culinary techniques participating in local, regional and national contests, familiarizing himself with the competitive atmosphere. He has won 19 gold medals, 16 silver medals, and four bronze medals, but he acknowledges that his Olympic gold medal is his most treasured.

"This was the hardest I worked for any competition. I pretty much thought about it every day, practicing items constantly and praying hard at the end," said Bucci.

Though sometimes working through the night in the days leading up to the judging, Bucci said the intensity of the competition didn't weigh on him during the preparation stage.

"I'll admit, I felt a great deal of stress in the months leading up to the event. But in that moment, there was no time for it:



Chef Tim Bucci plans to incorporate the challenges and discoveries that came with competing in the World Culinary Olympics into his teaching methods at Joliet Junior College.



What the Judges Look For

Presentation:
Is the food aesthetically pleasing?

Craftsmanship:
Are there any fingerprints or smudges on the coating?

Technical skills:
Is the food smooth around the edges, without jagged knife marks?

Menu development:
Do the components of the platter blend well?

Menu elements:
Are any ingredients duplicated in the menu?

"Ultimately, these competitions make me a better teacher and a more knowledgeable mentor for my students."— *Chef Bucci*

I had to keep my focus on making every element of my presentations the best it could possibly be."

There are no time limits imposed on the preparation of entries, so absolute perfection in presentation is key to winning a medal. After each dish is painstakingly prepared, it is covered in a clear, gelatinous glaze for preservation. Chefs take care not to leave a single fingerprint or smudge on the glass-smooth coating, because the judges will see it.

Each dish must also be accompanied by a detailed menu describing all of the ingredients used. The judges critique the sophistication of the combinations and look for unique and skillful flavor development. Judges do not taste the food, but make their critiques based on smell, appearance and menu elements. Participants are not allowed to observe during the judging process and have no way of knowing the results until the award ceremony announcements.

It was during the award ceremony that Bucci felt the greatest anxiety.

"It's one thing to be confident in your own work, but another to know that your work is going to be measured against the work of hundreds of the world's best chefs. In that moment I was sweating, thinking, 'was mine good enough?' That was the most nerve-racking part of all."

"I was numb–at first I couldn't believe it, and next I felt overwhelmed with pride, joy, relief."

When his name was called as the winner of the gold medal in the Buffet Platter and Appetizers Cold Food Salon category, Bucci was stunned.

"I was numb–at first I couldn't believe it, and next I felt overwhelmed with pride, joy, relief."

Bucci cherishes his gold medal but feels the greatest satisfaction in bringing the skills and techniques he learns from his colleagues back to the classroom. He says that he loves the opportunity to be challenged by new ideas.

"Ultimately, these competitions make me a better teacher and a more knowledgeable mentor for my students. Improving their grasp of culinary arts and helping them develop a global perspective on this field of study is the best reward for me." ▲

Award Winning Recipe

Recreate a piece of local culinary history in your own home with one of Chef Tim Bucci's gold medal-winning recipes!



Perfection and attention to the smallest of details is key to success at the World Culinary Olympics.

Pomegranate Braised Pork Belly

Serves 2

1 Tb. Canola oil

1 lb. pound pork belly, cut into two-inch pieces (four chicken legs and thigh quarters or 1lb. pork shoulder can be substituted)

1 cup diced onions

½ cup diced carrots and celery (each)

2 Tb. tomato paste

½ cup white wine

2 cups pomegranate juice

¼ cup honey

3 cups chicken broth

1 cinnamon stick

¼ tsp. ground allspice

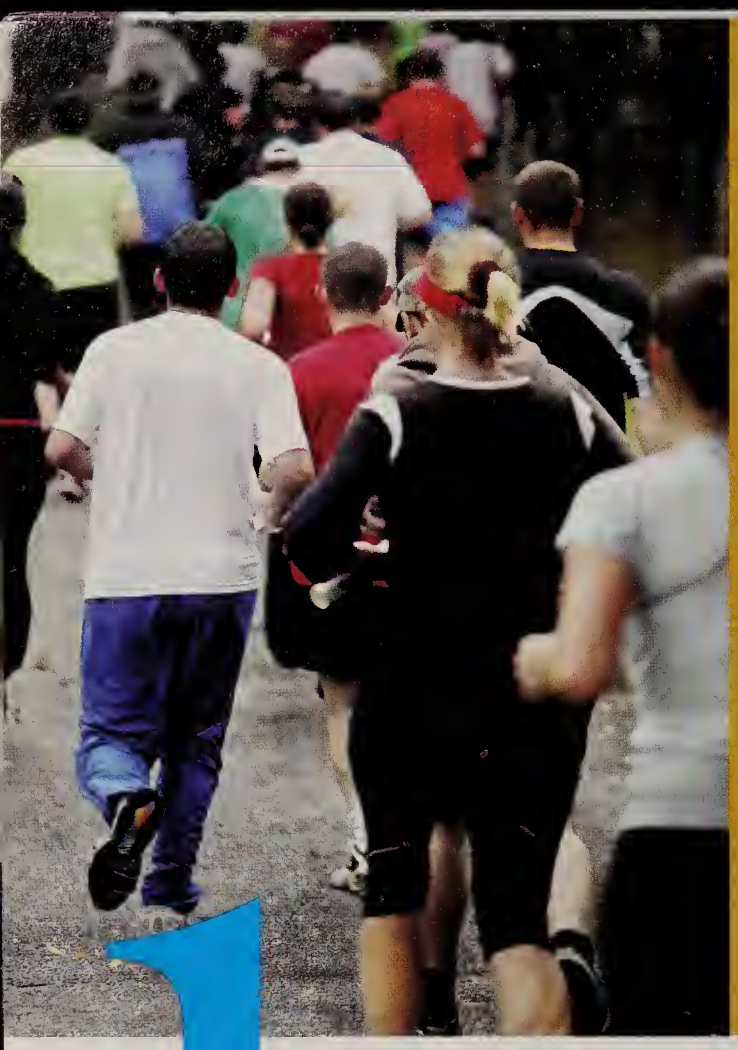
1 bay leaf

1 sprig thyme (can substitute ¼ tsp dried thyme)

Kosher salt and black pepper to taste

Heat oil in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Season pork with salt and pepper and brown in oil on all sides: remove. Add onions, carrots and celery and let cook for 4-5 minutes until lightly browned. Add tomato and let cook for 1 minute. Deglaze with white wine and add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil.

Put pork back in the pan, cover tightly and turn heat to low. Let cook until pork is tender when pierced with a fork. Remove pork and boil liquid until it evaporates to 1 cup. Skim any fat that rises to top. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Strain sauce over pork and serve.



Top 5 Ways to Give

Giving in Tough Times

Being an active donor in a tough economy is not easy. It is important to get a good return on your investments. By contributing to the Joliet Junior College Foundation, not only are you making a tax-deductible donation, you are also backing a valuable community resource—JJC students.

Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, says there are several things to keep keep in mind when it comes to giving in a tough economy.

1 List JJC in Your Will – Mulvey suggests naming the college in your will as the recipient of a flat amount or a percentage. "This builds an ongoing relationship between the donor and the college, and allows the college to know it is being considered on a long-term basis," Mulvey says.

2 Utilize a Life Insurance Policy – Donors can list the college as part or full beneficiary of the policy.

3 Give Any Amount of Cash – No amount is too small, and every dollar given goes directly to support the educational pursuits of JJC students. Mulvey says that one popular avenue that greatly benefits from even the smallest donation is giving to offset the increasingly high cost of college textbooks. "For some students, the cost of books can be the difference in being able to pursue their higher education dreams," Mulvey adds. "Donors can earmark any amount of money to go to a fund which is set aside solely for the purpose of book purchases."

4 Consider In-Kind Gifts – A wide variety of items can be donated, through the Foundation, for the benefit of JJC students. Mulvey says the college has received cars, for spare parts and learning tools, to use in the Automotive Technology Program. Steel has also been donated for use in welding courses.

5 Participate in Foundation Special Events – There are several events throughout the year in which you can actively or passively participate. Mulvey says the first JJC Dollars for Scholars Scholarship 5K Run/Walk will be held May 2. A $25 donation allows participants to take part in the run/walk, or $25 can be donated to cover the entry fee for a JJC student who will participate. All proceeds from the event will go toward the college's emergency book fund.

JOLIET Junior College

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report



Letter From Dr. Gena Proulx

Joliet Junior College President

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive look at the financial picture of Joliet Junior College. For the past 36 years, JJC has presented a balanced operating budget and has been honored with the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fourth year in a row.

The commitment from our Board of Trustees, faculty and staff contributes to the financial strength of this institution. The success of our students and alumni in the classroom and in our community is the culmination of the college's responsible and sound fiscal policy planning.

This year, we present our Annual Report in a new format—as part of the college's magazine, *Connections*. In addition to financial information, there are stories about the learning and teaching experiences of our students and faculty members, as well as a timely examination of the college's recent referendum success and the impact the JJC master plan will have on the economy of District 525.

Joliet Junior College is your community college. Thank you for your continued support of the nation's first public community college.

Sincerely,

Gena Proulx, Ph.D.
President, Joliet Junior College

Financial Highlights

The district's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net assets increased 17.9% over the course of the year. New construction in the district has increased the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) by 10.3% and property tax revenue by 6.9% in fiscal 2008.

Overall revenues were $100.8 million, $10.9 million more than expenses.

Total costs increased by approximately 6.9% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, student financial aid passed through the district and the on-behalf pension contribution from the state of Illinois. Total costs were expected to increase more, but there were a number of personnel positions that were vacant during the year.

Enrollment and tuition revenue increased by 8.0%.

The district received the donation of the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center from the Joliet Junior College Foundation valued at $3.0 million.

District 525 Financial Analysis

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position.

	2008	2007	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
Current Assets	$57.5	$44.5	$13.0	29.2%
Capital Assest, Net	43.6	39.9	3.7	9.3%
Total Assets	101.1	84.4	16.7	19.8%
Current Liabilities	20.2	12.5	7.7	61.6%
Long-Term Liabilities	9.0	10.9	(1.9)	-17.4%
Total Liabilities	29.2	23.4	5.8	24.8%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	33.1	28.1	5.0	17.8%
Restricted	8.3	8.6	(0.3)	-3.5%
Unrestricted	30.5	24.3	6.2	25.5%
Total Net Assets	**$71.9**	**$61.0**	**$10.9**	**17.9%**

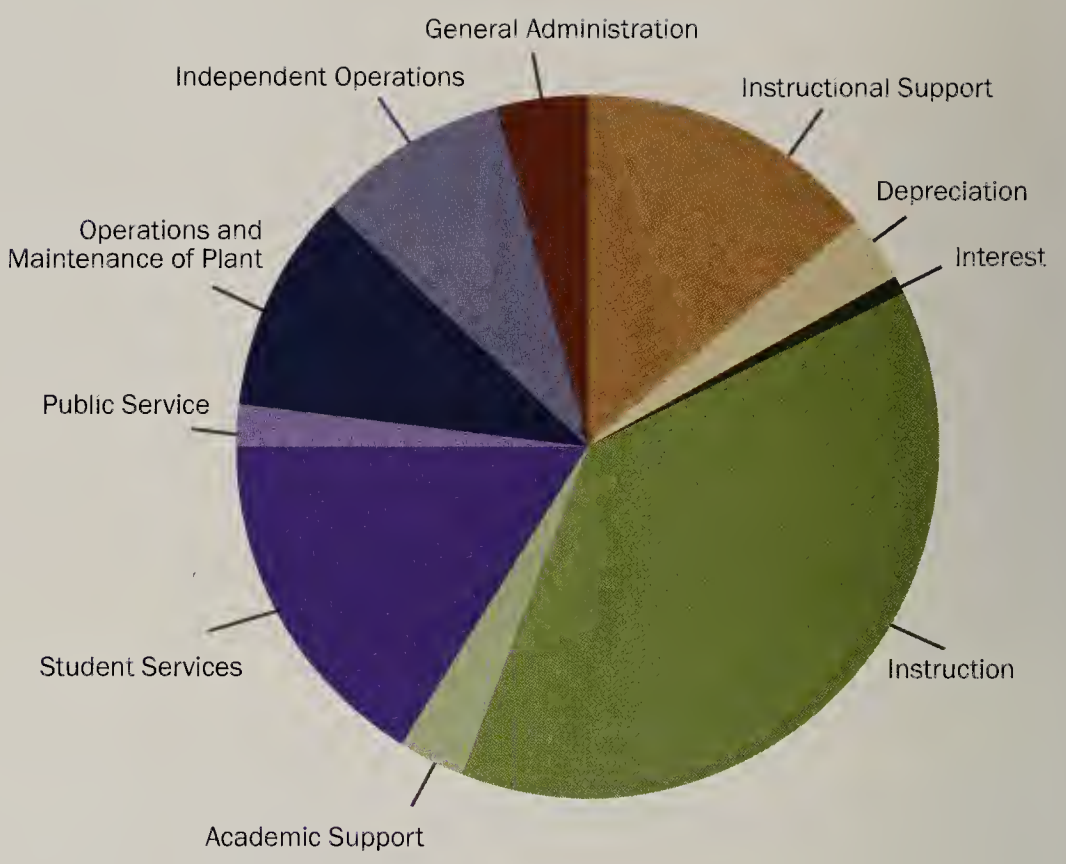
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $89.9 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $52.9 million or 59% of total expenses.

	2008	2007	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$22.9	$21.2	$1.7	8.0%
Sales & Service Fees	7.5	7.1	0.4	5.6%
Miscellaneous	1.8	1.7	0.1	5.9%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	37.2	34.8	2.4	6.9%
State & Federal Sources	25.0	22.4	2.6	11.6%
Other	6.4	3.1	3.3	106.5%
Total Revenues	**$100.8**	**$90.3**	**$10.5**	**11.6%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	33.8	32.0	1.8	5.6%
Academic Support	2.7	2.6	0.1	3.8%
Student Services	14.6	12.1	2.5	20.7%
Public Services	1.8	2.1	(0.3)	-14.3%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	9.4	9.3	0.1	1.1%
Independent Operations	8.2	7.8	0.4	5.1%
General Administration	3.7	3.6	0.1	2.8%
Institutional Support	12.7	10.8	1.9	17.6%
Depreciation	2.5	2.1	0.4	19.0%
Interest	0.5	0.6	(0.1)	16.7%
Total Expenses	**$89.9**	**$83.0**	**$6.9**	**8.3%**
Increase in Net Assets	**$10.9**	**$7.3**	**$3.6**	
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$61.0**	**$53.7**		
End of Year	**$71.9**	**$61.0**		

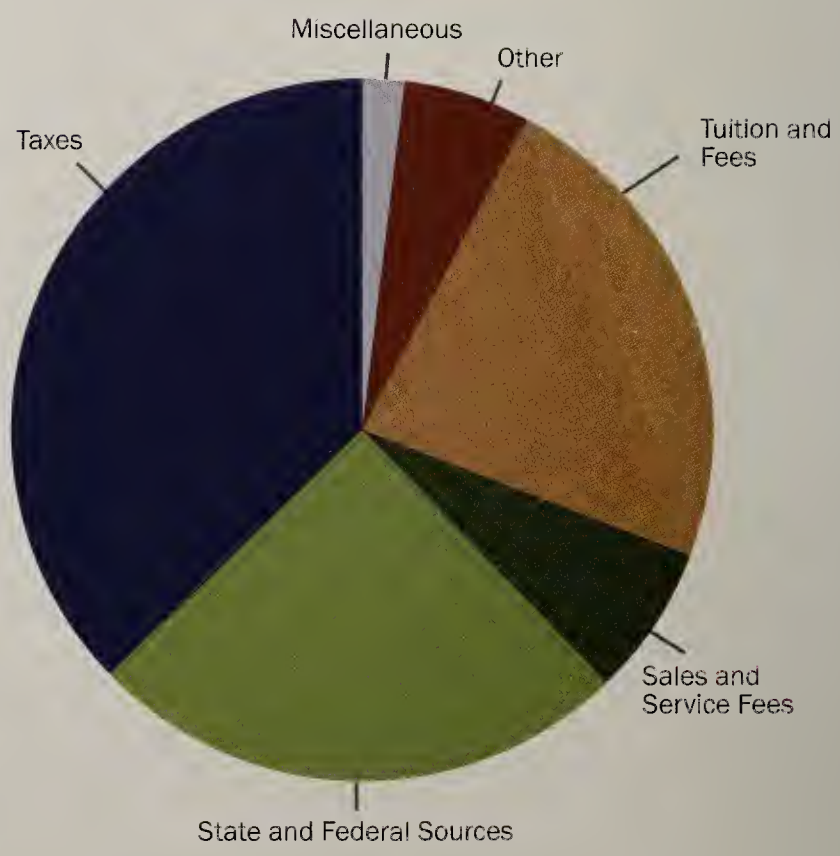
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2008

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	10%
Independent Operations	9%
General Administration	4%
Institutional Support	14%
Depreciation	3%
Interest	1%
Instruction	38%
Academic Support	3%
Student Services	16%
Public Services	2%



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2008

Taxes	37%
Miscellaneous	2%
Other	6%
Tuition and Fees	23%
Sales and Service Fees	7%
State and Federal Sources	25%



Joliet Junior College Foundation Annual Report



Letter From John Weitendorf, Jr.

Foundation President

For more than 35 years, the Joliet Junior College Foundation has been a difference maker in the lives of students and faculty at Joliet Junior College. From student scholarships to grants that fund equipment and programs, the JJC Foundation supports the college's mission to enrich people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services.

The Foundation is indebted to the many charitable individuals, businesses and organizations that continue to support teaching and learning at Joliet Junior College. Their generosity helps make the nation's first public community college an attainable resource for the District 525 community.

For more information about gift opportunities, contact Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or visit www.jjc.edu/about/foundation.

Sincerely,

John Weitendorf, Jr.
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2008 and 2007]

	2008	2007
Total Current Assets	$15,273,173	$16,303,123
Capital Assets, Net	905	3,304,415
Total Assets	15,274, 078	19,607,538
Total Current Liabilities	57,935	99,140
Total Net Assets	15,216,143	19,508,398
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	15,274,078	19,607,538

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2008 and 2007]

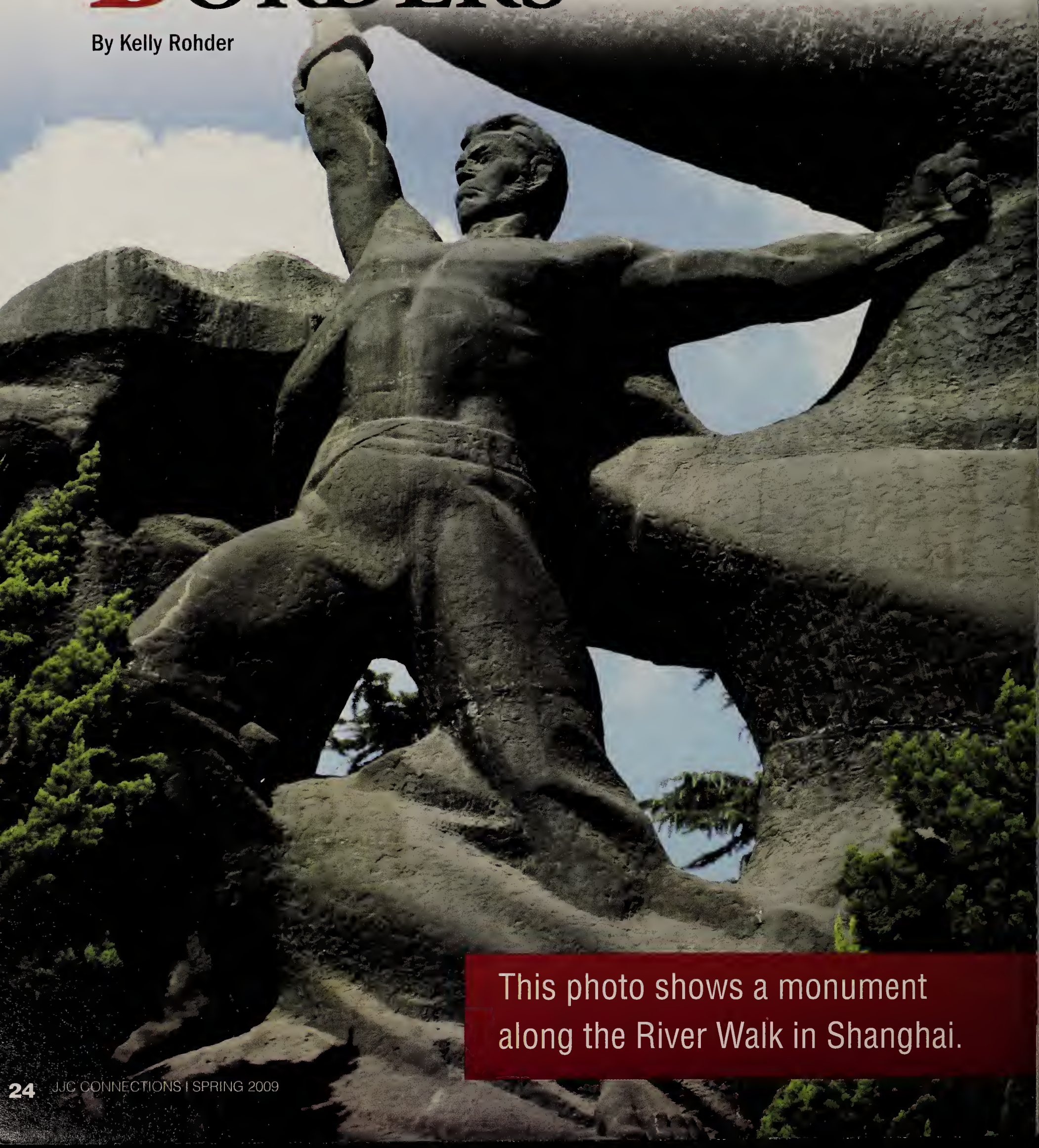
	2008	2007
Total Revenues	$1,334,199	$5,859,300
Total Expenses	4,583,719	848,715
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	19,508,398	13,231,158
End of Fiscal Year	15,216,413	19,508,398
Endowment	8,913,980	8,692,841
Investments	15,084,718	16,066,556
Annual Contributions	776,624	5,340,535
Scholarships Awarded	568,283	551,123

A complete list of donors as well as additional financial information is available at www.jjc.edu/info/magazine.

BEYOND BORDERS

JJC Faculty Return from China with New Perspective

By Kelly Rohder



This photo shows a monument along the River Walk in Shanghai.

日本

When describing his recent trip to China, Dr. Kueiming "Max" Lee looked to this ancient Chinese proverb: Travel broadens our horizon, far superior to wide-reading.

"Or literally," Lee said, "'You can know more by traveling thousands of miles than by reading thousands of books.'"

Lee was one of eight Joliet Junior College employees representing multiple academic departments that traveled to China in October 2008—a trip supported by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education—to gather information to help the college continue internationalizing its curricula and to create new world language courses.

The trip was so influential that Lee, a JJC physics professor, came back and began reading Fareed Zakaria's new book, "The Post American World."

Lee explained that the book is not about the decline of America, but rather about the rise of other countries like China and India and the formation of a true global society. Now, he wants his students to understand this shift and be prepared to successfully traverse the new international terrain.

"We need to teach our students how to think, how to be creative and imaginative," Lee said.

Dr. Berta Arias, JJC's international education coordinator, wrote the grant and spearheaded the trip. JJC was one of four community colleges in the nation to receive the $150,000 grant in 2007.

Arias said the goal of internationalizing curriculum is to bring perspectives from all over the world into courses so they present a broader spectrum of world viewpoints.

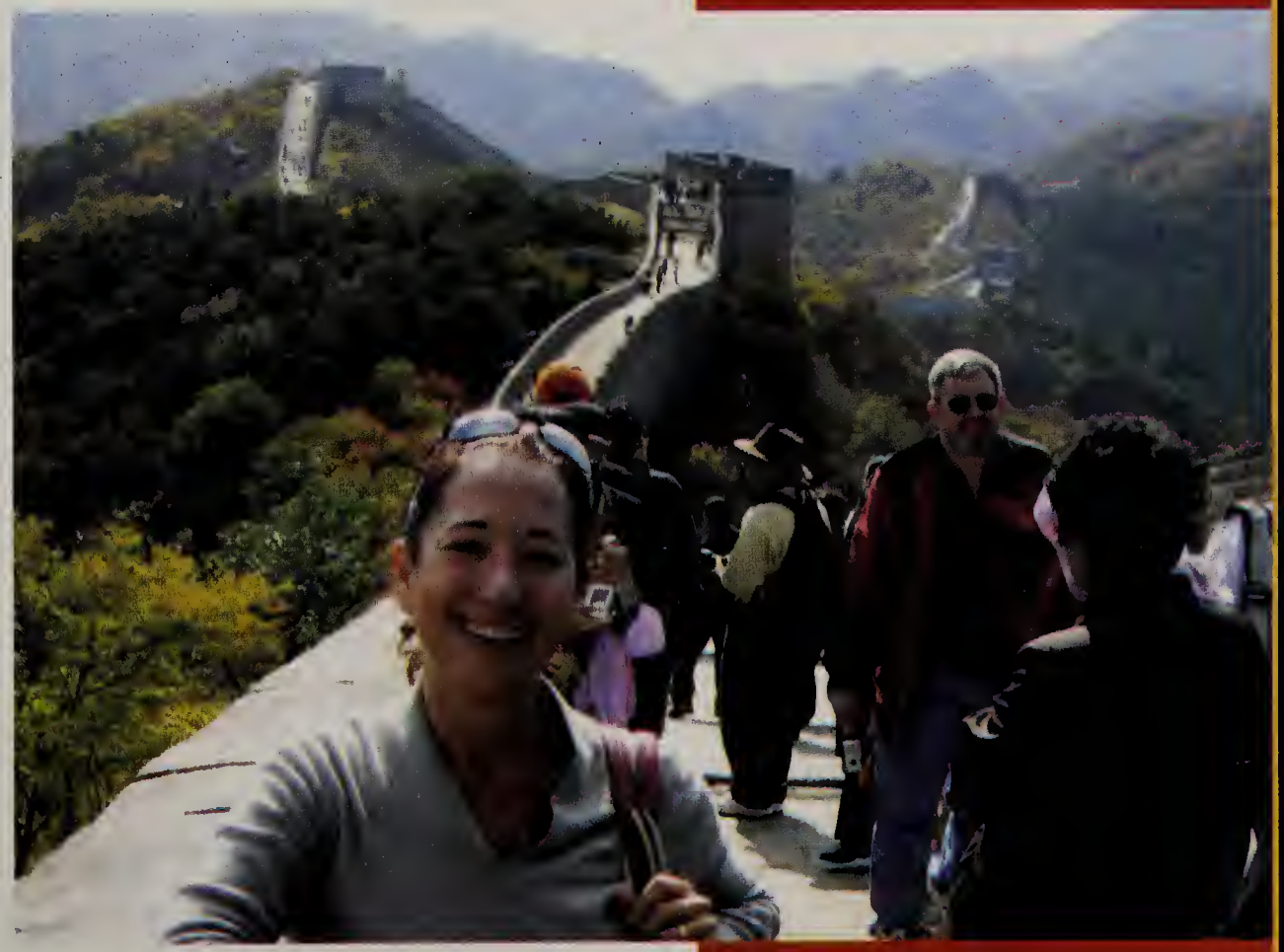
"We live in an interconnected world," she said. "Our curriculum needs to reflect that if we want to educate and train the students of tomorrow. If our instructors have that first-hand experience, it adds a rich dimension to classroom work."

Lee and seven other JJC faculty members—Dr. Julie Delfinado, English and World Languages Department; Dr. Jim Ethridge, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department; instructor Eileen McKee, Veterinary Medical Technology Program; Dr. Fredric Miller, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department; Professor Roxanne Munch, English and World Languages Department; and Susan Prokopeak, JJC access services librarian—attended lectures and visited cultural and historical sites while partnering with instructors from Xi'an University to learn about the institution's academic practices and Chinese pedagogy.

The group's general consensus was that the United States is fortunate to have the resources it does.

Susan Prokopeak, JJC librarian, said that many Chinese educational resources are scarce. For instance, in the Xi'an library, there was no wireless network and library patrons had to pay to access some materials.

"All of it was enormously helpful," she said. "There isn't a thing I learned that I won't use in my classroom. It's all about perspective."



Dr. Berta Arias stands at the top of the North Tower of the over 4,000 mile-long Great Wall of China, which is two hours outside of Beijing.



This photo, taken by Dr. Jim Ethridge, shows part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Village. The wall of small flowering plants is made to look like a brick wall with two topiary dogs playing in the forefront—all of which are living plants that are trimmed weekly.

Prokopeak, who teaches library and technology classes at the college, said the photos and experiences she plans to share will supply a new framework of theories and concepts.

"[In China], they have different ways of organizing and arranging their materials and different ways of using technology and infrastructure," she said. "This gives my students context."

Besides broadening their global perspective in education, the group learned some of the ancient country's paradoxes.

"[There are] beautiful gardens, exquisite ancient art and architecture, and unforgettable works such as the Great Wall and the terra cotta soldiers of Xi'an alongside incredible crowding, filth, and pollution," said Roxanne Munch, chair of the college's English and World Languages Department.

Munch's colleague, Dr. Julie Delfinado, said the disparities she encountered tested her existing ideas.

"I pay attention to the details that challenge my perspective. There's nothing like experiencing the energy of a place firsthand," she said.

Despite the uber-modern skylines of Shanghai and Beijing, Delfinado noticed that the interiors of many of the buildings were bare and antiquated.

"It made me wonder if the stories presented by the media are true," she said. "China didn't seem like an emerging global superpower that could represent an economic or political threat. You wonder how the aging infrastructure handles this amount of people."

For Lee, that question was answered while reading Zakaria's book. Like Delfinado, he saw great disparity. But through his readings, he now believes the country is in flux and is beginning to invest more in its educational system. Because of that, Lee said that his approach to teaching has changed.

"On the first day of the spring semester, I told my class that our outside world is rapidly changing and that we have to compete," Lee said.

Through the support of the grant, course content areas to be internationalized are art history, biology, English, horticulture, literature, physics and veterinary science. The 14 courses that now have an international component focusing on Africa, Southeast Asia and Asia add to the already long list of courses that have been internationalized across the curriculum over the last 20 years.

"At the federal level there is incredible support for this," Arias said. "They see the value in it. China is a major power and an emerging economic force. You understand something differently when you experience it viscerally—it becomes authentic."

Munch, who has spoken about the trip to students in her technical writing class, said she will continue to refine her teaching of non-Western literature.

"I think that we all acquired a deeper level of global awareness and it will have its influence on all of us," she said. "I pay much more attention to news about China now, and I feel like I can speak from experience a bit when I'm teaching the literature." ▲



This espalier tree, believed to be 75 years of age, was photographed by Dr. Ethridge in Xi'an.

FIRST-RATE FUN FOR LESS at JJC

By Rachel Rose

In challenging economic times, expensive dinners out and trips to downtown theatre performances are typically some of the first things families sacrifice. But with so many cultural, recreational and dining activities offered at Joliet Junior College, you can still enjoy your favorite social activities for little or no cost at all while staying in your local community. Visit www.jjc.edu/info/community-interests for more details about fun events and recreation available at the college.

THEATRE

Skip the pricey Chicago theatres, which can cost upwards of $75 per ticket, not to mention parking. The JJC Fine Arts Theatre performs two plays every semester, and offers a very reasonable subscription program.
Upcoming shows:

The Rimers of Eldritch, April 23 - 26, 2009
God's Favorite, Oct. 1-4, 2009
Mother Courage and Her Children, Nov. 12-15, 2009

Cost: $8 per single ticket, or $20 for a season subscription package.

DINING

There's no shortage of fine dining options at JJC. Enjoy a gourmet lunch at the Chef's Table, the student-run restaurant on the college's Main Campus, or attend one of the many culinary events offered at the Renaissance Center in downtown Joliet. Check out the center's Wednesday Theme Buffets, Friday Night Dinner Series and many special events planned throughout the spring and summer.

Cost: Varies by event

ART GALLERIES

The Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery features rotating exhibitions of fine art from local, national, and student artists.

Cost: FREE

NATURE TRAILS

Enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife of Will County on JJC's Main Campus, which features miles of paved and unpaved paths. Explore even further on the paved paths, which connect to the famous Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail.

Cost: FREE

ATHLETIC EVENTS

There's no need to travel far to cheer on national championship college sports teams: JJC's men's and women's teams play many home games throughout the school year. Come show your support for JJC's baseball, basketball, soccer, football, cross country, softball and volleyball teams! Check out www.jjc.edu/info/athletics for each team's schedule.

Cost: FREE

EXPLORING SPACE

Discover the wonders of the cosmos in the Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium, where visitors can attend a variety of shows to learn about the solar system. Shows are available on select Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the spring. Visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium for upcoming shows.

Cost: FREE





Alumni Notes



1956

Gary Walk received his bachelor's degree in political science at Lewis College. He retired after 20 years as a paramedic and 35 years in engineering and public works. Gary was in the Air Force for 42 years.

1960

Jeanne aka Jeanee Dean retired from 35 years of government service. Her husband, Leslie Dean, was asked to go to Iraq to serve as governor of Baghdad province and Major of the city of Baghdad until local elections were held. Jeanne worked as a personal assistant for Jane Goodall in Tanzania, worked as community liaison officer for the U.S embassy in South Africa, was director of a pre-school in Laos, and a first grade teacher in Nepal, Zambia and Pakistan.

1973

Willie B. Cochran was appointed to the Chicago Police Department in 1977 and retired as a Chicago police sergeant in 2003. Cochran was elected as the 20th ward alderman in 2007 and 20th ward committeeman in 2008. He received his bachelor's degree in sociology at Eastern Illinois University and his master's degree in public administration at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

1981

Claude Kern is the former department chairman and founder of the JJC Culinary Arts and Hotel Restaurant Management Programs.

1983

Gloria Taylor received her bachelor's and master's degrees in education in 2005. She is currently teaching family and consumer science at the middle school level in New Hampshire.

1984

Denise Friant is an instructor at Joliet Junior College in graphic design and software applications, and also as an adjunct instructor at Governors State University in human performance and training. She is president of the Chicago Chapter of the International Society of Performance Improvement (CISPI) for 2009.

1996

Brian Thompson is currently the president of Black & Essington Solutions, a consulting firm focused on business development and strategy implementation. Thompson owns HCX Mixed Martial Arts in the Joliet area. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration at Governors State University and his master's degree in finance from the Illinois Institute Stuart School of Business.

1998

Stephanie Blahut-Chambers joined the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists as a web production associate. She has previously worked for the Sun Times News Group at *The Daily Southtown* and *The Star* newspapers as a web assistant. Blahut-Chambers is formally an editor for JJC's college newspaper, *Blazer*.

Upcoming Alumni and Foundation Events at JJC



April 16 **JJC Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner**
5:30 p.m., Renaissance Center

June 7 **28th Annual Alumni Brunch**
11 a.m., Renaissance Center

15 **JJC Foundation Golf Outing**
11:30 a.m. registration, Joliet Country Club

Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for event additions and updates.

Help JJC GO GREEN!

JJC IS GOING GREEN

The college is committed to being environmentally responsible by reducing consumption of the earth's natural resources, which includes paper. To help us reach this goal, join our e-mail list and we'll send you the information you need to know, electronically without using paper. This magazine, as well as other communications from the college, is available in an electronic format, so help us reduce our impact on the earth by using e-mail. Send your e-mail addresses to kmyers@jjc.edu. JJC and the environment appreciate your consideration!

This magazine is produced with recycled paper and soy ink.

Send us your news and notes!

We need your e-mail address and other pertinent information about you, your family, your career, and any news you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**

JOLIET Junior College

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938



Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts Cruising for Scholarships

July 30-August 11, 2009

What a perfect getaway before the new school year begins. Enjoy private cooking classes, wine tastings, guided tours, and many exciting extras. We have arranged for the cruise line and Carol's Travel to give back up to $100 of each paid fare back to the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Department's scholarship fund through the JJC Foundation. You can travel to Europe's most desirable destinations AND support scholarships for our incredible Joliet Junior College students!

SPAIN
Barcelona

ITALY
Rome
Venice
Florence
Naples

CROATIA

GREECE

GREEK ISLANDS

SICILY

Extras included in this cruise package:

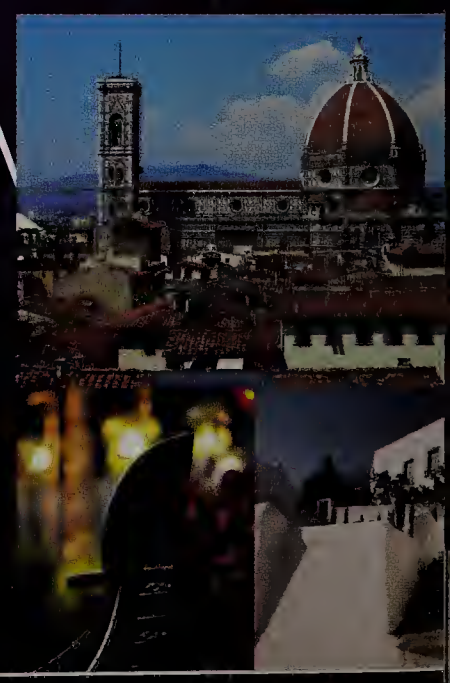
Private chef–guided tours of European ports

VIP premium wine tasting on board the ship

Pre-departure document party a week before the cruise

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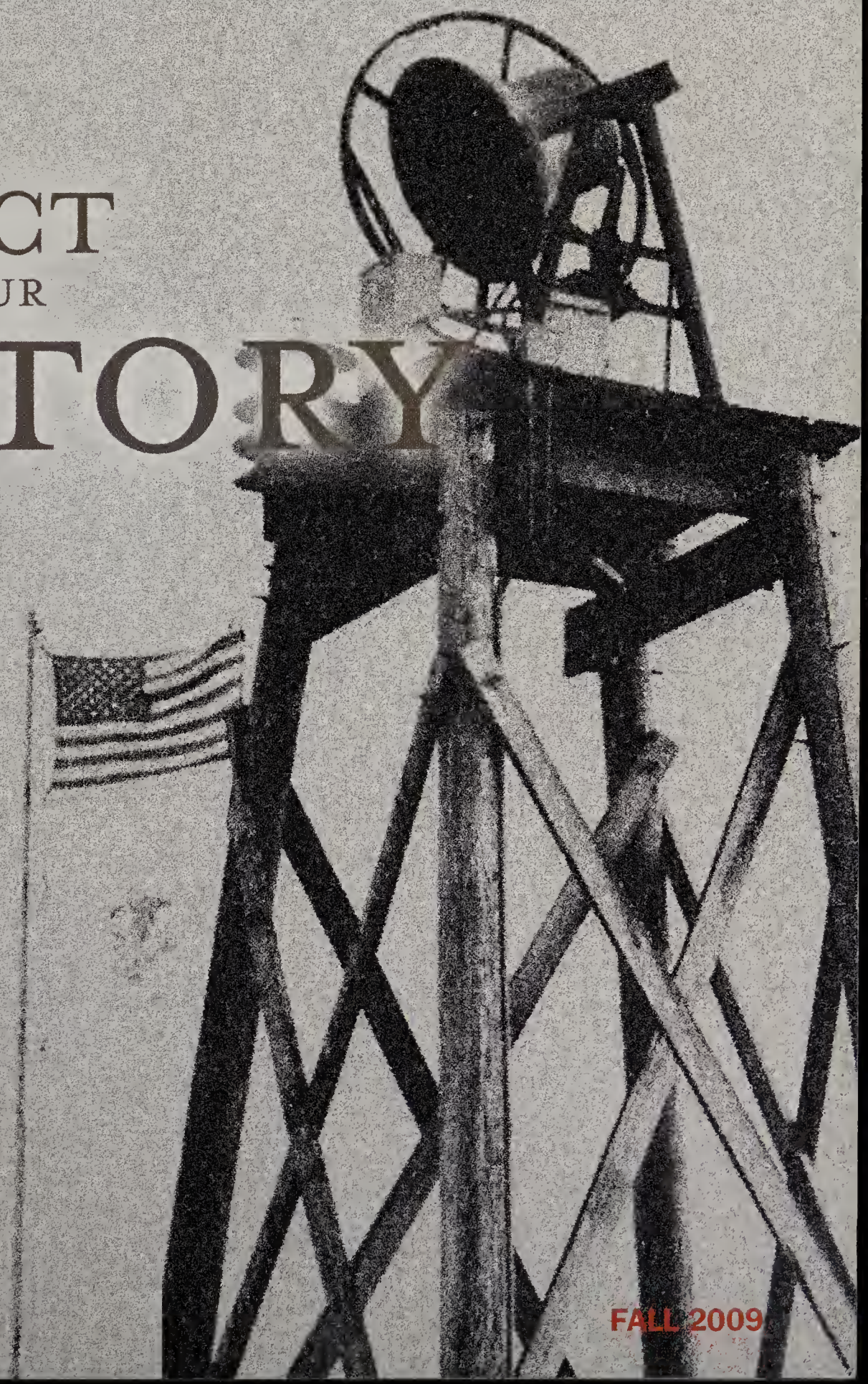


JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

RECONNECT WITH OUR HISTORY



A Hidden History
The untold story of the Alumni Bell

Marie Ghilain
Oldest Living Alumna

Wayne King
Baseball Legend Reflects on Success

FALL 2009

LEARN FROM THE PAST, LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Strategic Goals

Improve student success with an emphasis on enrollment, retention, graduation, and transfer rates and effective teaching strategies and learning outcomes.

Increase institutional sustainability with an emphasis on obtaining necessary resources, state-of-the-art facilities, professional development, and environmental stewardship.

Increase and improve partnerships with organizations that support the college's mission.

Utilize technology strategically to advance teaching and learning, expand online and alternative delivery methods, and enable effective administrative and support services.

Improve the success of minority, underrepresented and underprepared student populations in addition to closing the gap between high school and college performance.

Develop programs that anticipate and respond to labor market demand.

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
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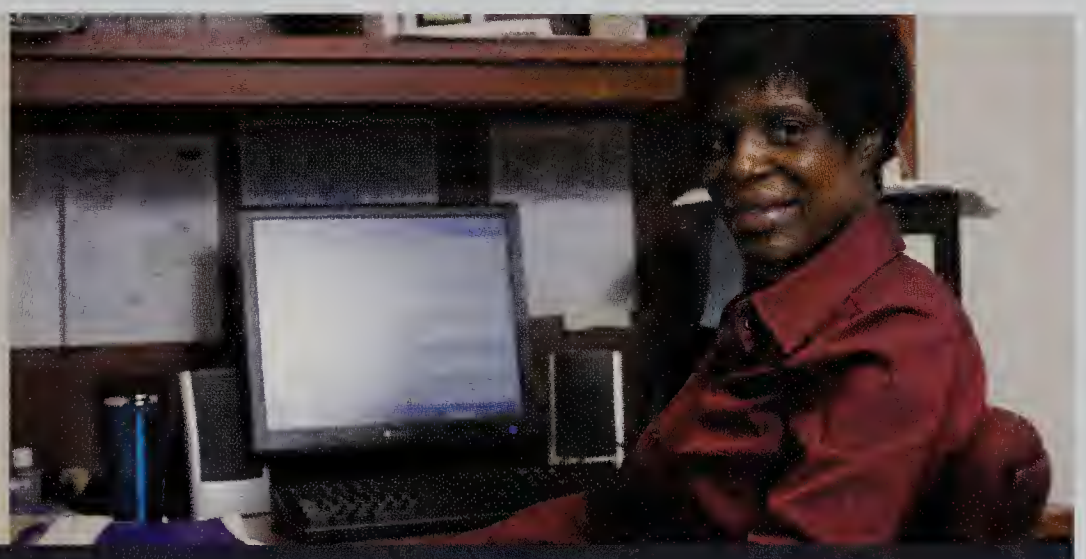
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JJC's Alumni Bell



Marie Ghilain



Thomas Liley



CONNECTIONS

"Let it ring forever." Those words are stamped near the foundation of the college's Alumni Bell Tower, which stands on the grounds of the Main Campus of Joliet Junior College.

This October marks the 40th anniversary of the bell's dedication, and its fascinating history is chronicled in this month's issue. It's a tale that begins with one man's commitment to an institution that changed his life. It's a story that's echoed again and again in the lives of people like Virginia Bouie, Marie Ghilain, and Darren Newenhouse. Their achievements resonate throughout the proud history of JJC.

The bell rings on the hour reminding us of the accomplishments and contributions of the college's many proud alumni as well as the college's impact on the community. Imagine if the bell was rung for every person whose life has been changed by Joliet Junior College. The alumni bell would ring forever.

Jeff Julian
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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine will serve as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

Connections is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

JJC is an asset that benefits our individual growth, the community and the organizations that gain an advantage from the talents of our graduates. We are working hard to create greater internal and external ambassadorship to increase the overall equity of the institution. By establishing a standard of social capital, we develop a means of measuring our performance and ultimately our extraordinary successes. The national percentage of alumni giving at community colleges is 1 percent—alumni giving at JJC in FY09 was 3.49 percent!

Faculty began to build social capital with you the day that you entered your first class at JJC. When you felt comfortable and created friendships and memories, you gained an affinity for JJC. As you progress in life we hope that you will share the vast resources offered at JJC with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Today we continue our work to create greater equity for the college because we realize each student is an alumni-in-residence.

In the 2008-09 academic year, we continued our work to strengthen relationships with students while they are on campus. Our student group was renamed to more aptly reflect its purpose, Students & Alumni United. This dedicated group works throughout the year to build relationships with students and alumni. We have created opportunities for mentoring, community service, fundraising for student projects, education about philanthropy, and volunteerism for college events. Founded in 2006, this was the first student alumni program to be chartered at a community college.

If you have already reconnected with JJC, thank you! If you have not, please call me at (815) 280-2218 or e-mail me at kmyers@jjc.edu. I would be happy to discuss the opportunities that are available or schedule a tour of the campus. Also, visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

Best regards,

Kelly Myers
Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement
and Alumni Relations

Virginia Bouie

JJC professor discusses her passion for encouraging critical thinking in her students

Virginia Bouie's roots at JJC run deep. Born and raised in Joliet, she was first introduced to the college when her mother was taking classes here in the 1970s. Bouie earned her associate degree from JJC in 1985 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in English from Governors State University.

In 2000, Bouie found herself back at the college teaching in the English and World Languages Department as an adjunct faculty member. Nine years later, she is a full-time professor teaching core writing, composition and literature classes.

I appreciate the fact that I work for an institution that offers its students so many resources. I'm very happy to go into work every day. I love standing in front of my students, sharing views on a topic and seeing the light bulb click on. As an educator, in a small way, you shape society. The future that I prepared for in the past has arrived. I want to do a quality job every day preparing each of my students to be successful in the present and in the future.

As an educator, what is the most important goal for you to achieve in your classroom?

I try to create an environment conducive to critical thinking. A student that is comfortable doing that becomes an effective contributor to society. I want my students to be able to freely explore their thoughts on a subject, first and foremost. I help them explore those thoughts. Thinking and expressing yourself freely... we are able to do this as Americans and I value that.

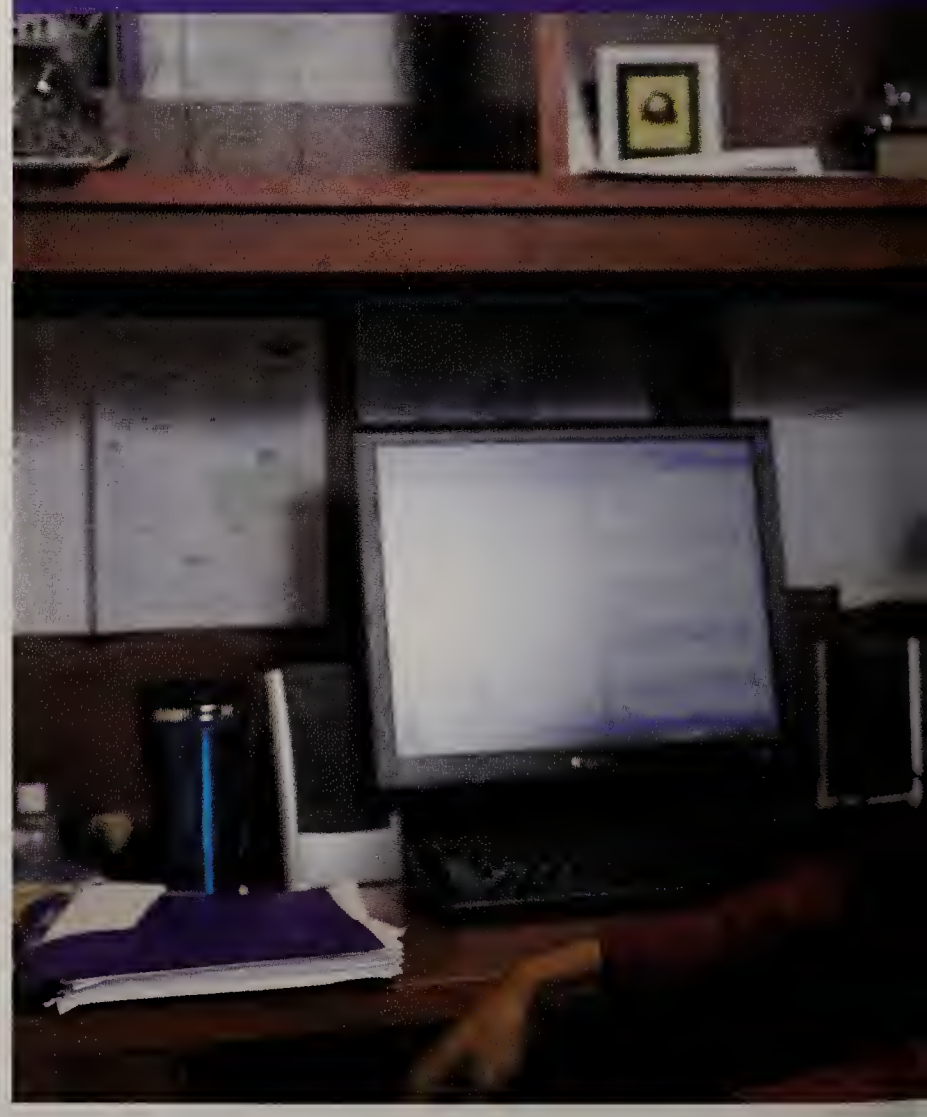
What compelled you to become a teacher?

My enthusiasm and passion for teaching cannot be hidden. [Teaching is] an opportunity to give back. If you enjoy engaging with people and talking about different topics, JJC is a great place to do it. As instructors, we're helping students shape their thoughts as they journey through life. I don't take that lightly. At the end of the day, I reflect back on if I've done a good job helping my students process information and express their thoughts orally and in written form. If I've helped them, I feel I've done what I've been hired to do.

You've had an affiliation with the college for over 20 years. What is it like for you to be back and working in this capacity?

I definitely feel a connection with the campus. JJC was a great place to get those early years of education.

"My enthusiasm and passion for teaching cannot be hidden. [Teaching is] an opportunity to give back."





A HIDDEN HISTORY

THE UNTOLD STORY OF JJC'S ALUMNI BELL

by **Rachel Rose and Kelly Rohder**



Bill Glasscock, JJC yearbook portrait, 1937

His blue chambray shirt and bib overalls dirty from a day spent in the fields, Bill Glasscock stood in his garage staring with much anticipation at his newest project.

The 1,500-pound bronze bell sat on a concrete apron before him, the plaster walls behind it tinted from the welding smoke of previous ventures. Floor-to-ceiling cubbyholes filled with arbitrary nails and bolts lined the opposite wall, near a tub filled with metal scraps and a lywheel perched on a log.

Joined by six men, Glasscock deliberated the best way to clean his latest, tarnished acquisition, his trademark red handkerchief a visible bulge in his back pocket.

On this particular spring day, the 52-year-old Joliet farmer and first president of the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees was about to undertake a project unlike any other.

Forty years later, that bell stands—perhaps inconspicuously—on a simple, austere steel frame in a quiet, wooded nook of the JJC Main Campus between the lake and the E-Building, easily passed by as students, staff and faculty hurry to and from their destinations around campus. But behind this unassuming college landmark is an inspiring story waiting to be told: a story of one man's commitment, dedication and pride in the history of JJC and the Joliet community.

As the story goes, Glasscock '37 saved the bell from destruction when he learned the former Will County Courthouse, built in 1885, was set for demolition in 1969. The bell, which had chimed on the hour from inside the courthouse clock tower for decades, held a certain nostalgia for Glasscock. To him, it represented a significant piece of Joliet and Will County history that needed to be salvaged. And there was no better place to preserve the old bell, Glasscock thought, than on JJC's newly built campus on Houbolt Road.

After negotiations with the company responsible for the demolition, he purchased the bell for $1,500 (his own money) from the company and tucked it safely away in the garage of his farmhouse.

Glasscock's daughter, Gayle Crompton '64, recalled the mix of humor and aggravation that marked that day for the men gathered in the Glasscock family garage.

"[They] used their total sum of knowledge to work all afternoon to get the bell to shine," Crompton, who was in her early 20s at the time, said. "First they used soap and water, dish soap and water, laundry soap and water, and a lot of elbow grease to remove the filth of many years in the tower at the courthouse.

"They then started with the chemicals to brighten and shine the bell. It worked pretty well, and the bell began to shine. Finally, they were satisfied that they had done all they could to improve the bell enough to have a place of honor on the campus. They all stood around in awe with smiles on their faces. 'Well, I guess that is that. We can rinse it off now,' someone said. There was a pail of water filled and splashed over the bell. It immediately turned back to the original dark color!"

Ron Whitaker, who was elected with Glasscock to the college's first board in 1967, was also there that day.

"We were all so enthused about it," Whitaker said. "I can remember looking closely at it, reading the inscription... I



In this 1979 photo, a worker prepares the new bell tower structure for assembly on the Main Campus.

just thought it was so neat to get it for the new college."

The inscription, which simply reads "Founders Meneely Kimberly, Troy, New York, 1872" hasn't shed much light on the bell's past, other than the year and place where it was forged.

For those close to Glasscock, his resolve to save the bell wasn't surprising.

"Bill was quite a guy," Dr. Cecil Ingmire, a former college trustee and friend of Glasscock's said. "He would get something started and see it through. He was very determined In everything he did."

Glasscock, who passed away in 1999 at the age of 82, also left an indelible impression on Henry Pillard, his colleague and college administrator from 1965 to 1988.

"He walked into a room and you noticed him. He was regal," Pillard said. "He would have been a leader in whatever he chose to do. That was Bill... A natural-born and respected leader."

Pillard pointed to Glasscock's service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, adding that it revealed a lot about his character. After Glasscock graduated from JJC in 1937, he spent several years working as a flight instructor out of Roscoe Turner Airfield in Indianapolis. His primary duty, though, was to lead squadrons of airplanes—many times through inclement weather and rough terrain—to Alaska for ultimate transport to Russia.

"It's significant that they chose him to do that job," Pillard said. "That says a lot about what they thought of him."

He later returned to Joliet to run the family farm and raise three children with his wife, Elasteen. Throughout the years, Glasscock's loyalty to JJC and the Joliet community remained a constant; when District 525 was first formed in 1967, he was there to serve in a leadership role. He was elected to the first Board of Trustees in April of the same year, and was later named the first president of the board.

"Bill's personality was that of a typical farmer – honest, very friendly to everyone and straightforward," said Jay Bergman, former director of the JJC Alumni Association and current member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. "I have found very few people with the passion for their respective institutions that Bill Glasscock had for Joliet Junior College."

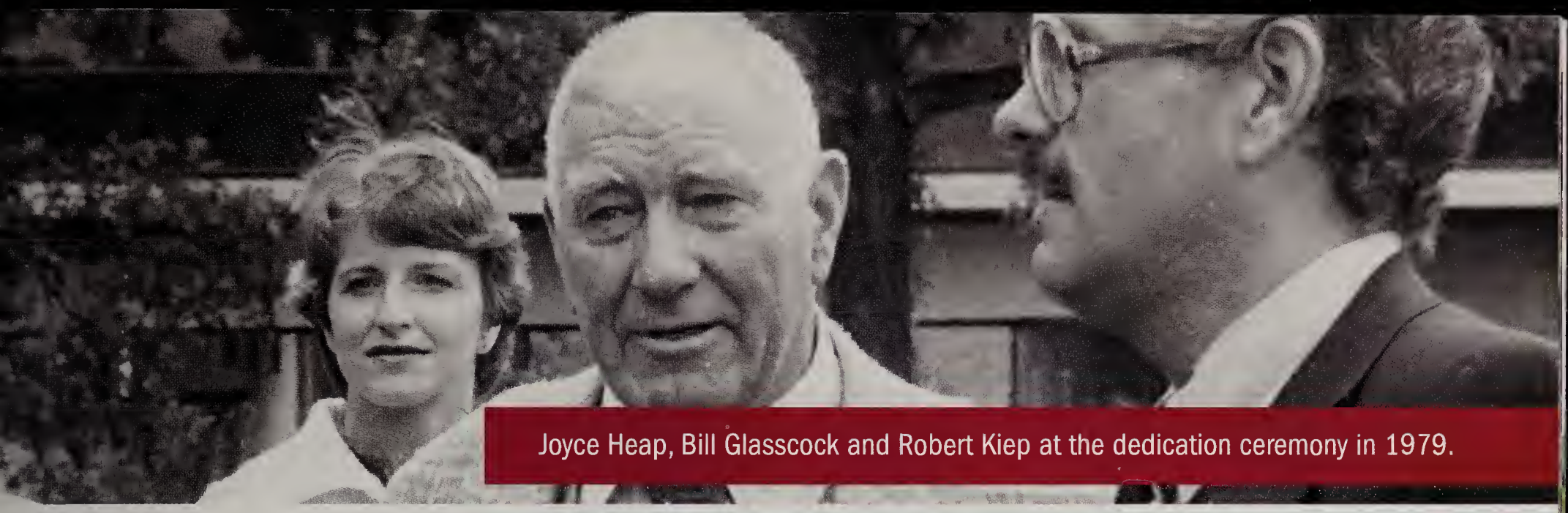
During the late '60s, formative years for the college, Glasscock stood out as a strong and committed leader. The transition from the high school to the new campus on Houbolt Road was a difficult one at times, and while Glasscock wanted to ensure that traditions were preserved, he also wanted the new college to establish its own identity. This, in part, is what compelled him to acquire the bell.

"At Joliet Township High School where JJC was first located, there was always a bell to signal the changing of classes,"

Alumni Bell Timeline

- **1969:** Bill Glasscock acquires the bell from Foschi Brothers, the company that demolished the Will County Courthouse.
- **April 1969:** The bell was used in the A.R. McAllister Band's performance of the 1812 Overture at the Rialto Theatre.
- **August 1969:** Verdin Company picks up the bell in Joliet, takes it to Cincinnati for cleaning, new hardware and apparatus for mounting.
- **December 1969:** Bell was returned to the Glasscock home, then brought to the JJC Main Campus and mounted on the temporary tower.
- **1970s:** The Alumni Association launched a campaign to raise funds for building a permanent bell tower.
- **August 1979:** The bell tower is assembled and painted.
- **October 10, 1979:** An official dedication ceremony for the new tower was held.
- **June 2009:** The bell is incorporated into the college's new logo.

All photos courtesy of the JJC archives.



Joyce Heap, Bill Glasscock and Robert Kiep at the dedication ceremony in 1979.

Crompton said. "So, there simply needed to be a bell at the new campus. But not just any bell–my father wanted a big bell with character."

Besides Glasscock and the other college administrators who supported his acquisition of the bell, members of the Joliet community were also behind his efforts to salvage the courthouse icon.

"There was a lot of local support for bringing the bell to JJC," said Tom Mahalik '69, a student at the time the bell was brought to JJC. "It was an emotional time for the community because the Will County Courthouse was a cherished historical piece of Joliet that was lost when it was demolished, and bringing the courthouse's bell to JJC was a way of preserving a piece of that history."

It took a few years to raise sufficient funds to build the new tower, while construction was slowed by a campus-wide debate over the structural integrity and safety of the tower. Once a satisfactory design was created and approved by the Board of Trustees, the tower was assembled and officially dedicated on October 10, 1979.

It was a time of celebration, not only to commemorate the end of a years–long process, but also to acknowledge the fact that the bell finally had a permanent home.



"There simply needed to be a bell at the new campus. But not just any bell–my father wanted a big bell with character." – *Gayle Crompton, '64*

In December of 1969, the bell was mounted on top of a temporary tower made of telephone poles, and rang every 10 minutes to the hour and on the hour. It stood in the quad of the interim campus—a central location for students to gather between classes, hold pep rallies and even stage anti-war demonstrations. One October 1970 edition of the student-run newspaper, The Blazer, referenced the bell as a "bulwark of tradition."

Chris Dragatsis '50, met Glasscock when he joined the JJC Alumni Association Board, and later succeeded him as president of the Alumni Association Board in 1978. Dragatsis took part in the efforts to create a permanent home for the bell, and even personally paid the architecture firm that designed the new structure to house it.

Today, the bell's relevance at JJC is no less significant. In 2009, the college established its first logo, in which the bell is featured prominently.

"The discovery of the history of the college's bell has been a pleasant awakening to the depth of richness that exists on the Main Campus," said Dr. Gena Proulx, JJC president. "Few community colleges can tie their roots to something of this degree of significance to both alumni and the community. We have something that our employees, students and alumni can embrace. Now, the bell and its use in the new college logo pave the way for us to tie tradition to the future. What a wonderful thing to celebrate!"

Successful Connections

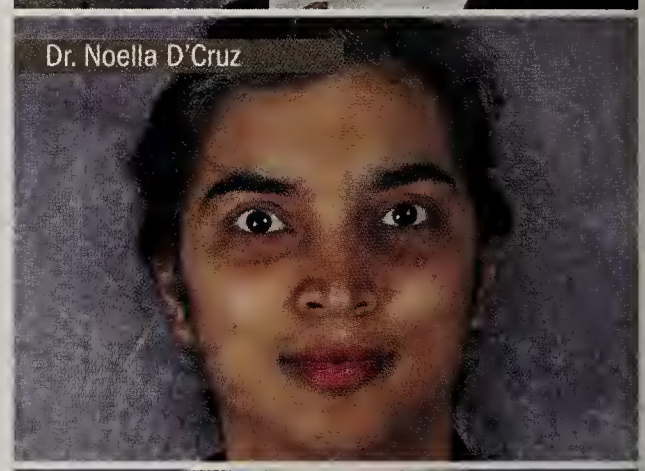
Rich McNeil, professor in the Computer Information and Office Systems Department, presented his paper "Usage of the Internet and Various Internet Tools to Improve the Learning of Marginal Students" at the Oxford Round Table in July.

Dr. Noella D'Cruz, associate professor of astronomy, presented "ASTR 101 Students' Attitudes Towards Group Projects on Telescopes" at the 213th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in California this winter.

Culinary Arts Chef and instructor **Tim Bucci** was named the American Culinary Federation's National Culinary Educator of the Year at the ACF's national conference in Orlando.

Nursing faculty members **Sami Nordmark, Colleen Kestel-Branchaw, Dr. Judy Kachel, Gwendolyn Beam, Kathleen Wolz,** business faculty member **Terry O'Neil**, and culinary arts **Chef Kyle Richardson** were the recipients of the 2009 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Award for Excellence.


Rich McNeil


Dr. Noella D'Cruz


Tim Bucci


Sami Nordmark


Colleen Kestel-Branchaw


Gwendolyn Beam


Kyle Richardson

SUCCESS

In Memory of

Trustee Dick Dystrup

1943-2009

Joliet Junior College trustee, longtime local educator and community advocate Dick Dystrup passed away on August 28 from complications of pulmonary fibrosis at the University of Chicago Hospital. He was 66 years old.

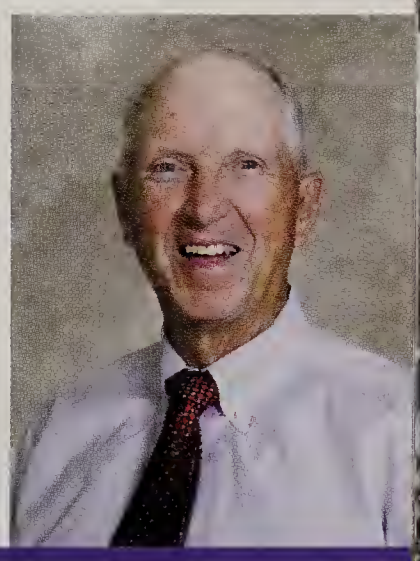
"Trustee Dystrup was a JJC advocate and fan," JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx said. "He loved the Wolves and was known to be present at many college athletic events. We will miss Trustee Dystrup's spirited support of the college and its work and his passion and enthusiasm for JJC's students, faculty and staff."

A college trustee since 1999, Dystrup was elected to his second term in 2005. He served as the board secretary on two occasions and served as the board chair in 2002-2003. He served as vice chair of the board during the 2008–2009 academic year. In 2008, he was appointed as a member of the Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) public policy committee.

Dystrup's duties as a college trustee were varied throughout his 10 years of service. He served as board representative to the JJC Foundation, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Communications Committee, and Finance Committee.

In addition to his local duties, Dystrup served as the JJC board representative to the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Dystrup's colleagues on the board are planning to honor him by planting an oak tree in a park near his home in Lockport.



> "Trustee Dystrup was a JJC advocate and fan."
>
> *– Dr. Gena Proulx*

MARIE GHILAIN

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE'S OLDEST LIVING ALUMNA



Russ Ghilain, Marie's son, stands with her outside the Cronin School in June.



Marie Ghilain, Joliet Junior College's oldest living alumna, made a special visit to the Main Campus this summer.

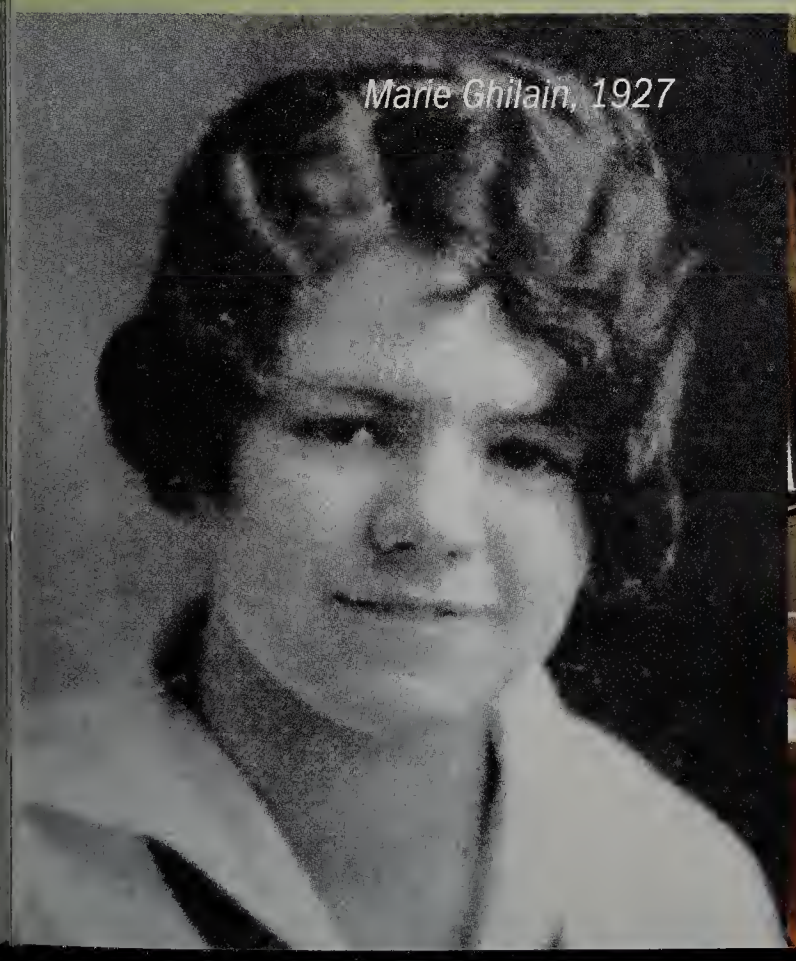
The trip was especially important for Ghilain—who turned 102 on July 15—because she also visited the Cronin School, the one-room schoolhouse preserved on campus where she started her teaching career in 1928.

Accompanied by her son Russ, Ghilain toured the renovated structure, where she said she taught 27 children during the 1928-1929 school year, one year after graduating from JJC.

The nearly 145-year-old schoolhouse was moved to the Main Campus in 1987, where it has served as a living history museum. Originally located on Black Road, the Cronin School served Troy Township until January 1950. The effort to restore it was spearheaded by two former JJC agriculture professors, Dave Cattron and Jim Shinn.

To help the restoration effort in the late '80s, Ghilain made a donation of $1,000—her annual salary the year she taught there.

In this undated photo, the schoolhouse sits at its original location off of Black Road in Shorewood, Illinois.



Marie Ghilain, 1927



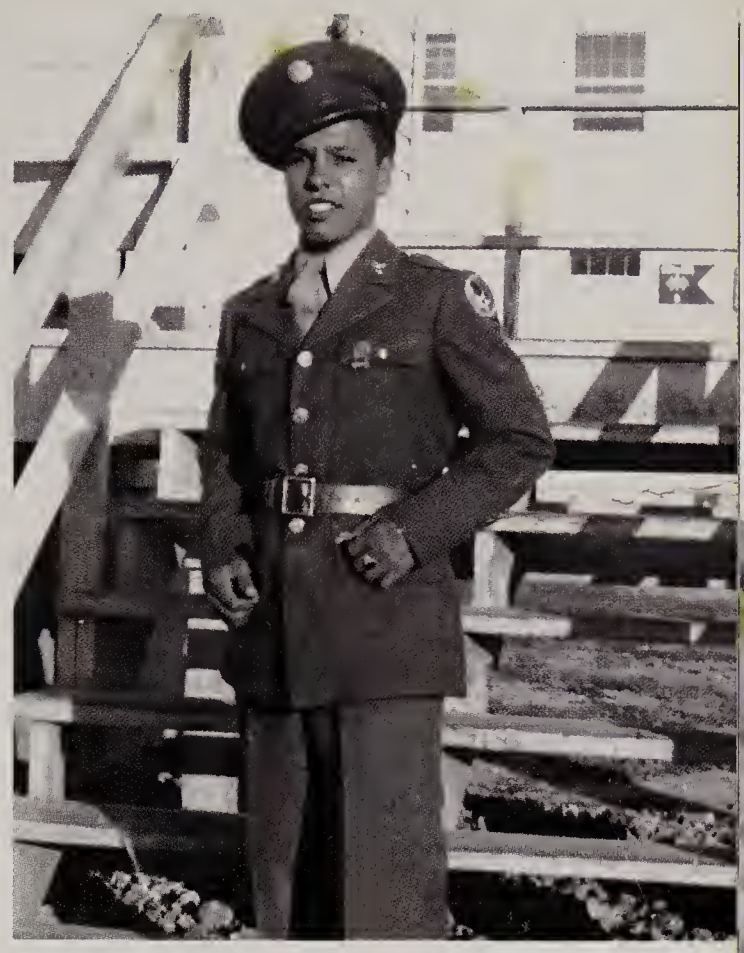
Cronin School, 2009

HEROIC ★★★ JOURNEY



by **Kelly Rohder**

Military Veteran Receives Medals 64 Years Later in Special Ceremony



Though his courageous military career concluded decades ago, one local veteran's well-deserved recognition for his service did not come until years later.

In a special ceremony held at JJC on Sept. 9, World War II veteran Joe Belman of Lockport finally received the medals he earned 64 years ago but never was given.

Belman, an 85-year-old retired U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sergeant, never received certain medals he earned during 35 combat missions as a ball turret gunner for the 8th Air Force – 305th Bomb Group.

"What can I say?" Belman said after accepting his medals. "I'm at a loss for words. This is amazing. I'm certainly humbled because I know that there are so many million more out there that deserve an honor like this."

Belman, a Mexican-American who served from July 1944 to March 1945, said he didn't think much about those medals in the years following the war. It wasn't until a recent conversation in May with his friend, Sal Valadez, a multicultural outreach and retention specialist at JJC, that Belman began talking about the honors he had earned but never formally received.

"I said, 'We can fix that,' " Valadez said, who first met Belman over 20 years ago through volunteer efforts within the community.

Valadez then contacted the office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin for help, and through that connection, was able to secure Belman's medals.

Presenting medals to Belman were Kam Buckner, a representative from Sen. Dick Durbin's, office and Lt. Colonel Jerry Gleason of the Illinois Army National Guard.

As an audience of family members, local legislators and community members looked on, Gleason pinned Belman's medals to his suit lapel. They included the Good Conduct Medal, the European Theater Medal with three bronze stars, the World War II Victory Medal, an honorable service lapel button and a marksmanship badge.

In addition to the public ceremony, Belman's military experiences were recently recorded by the JJC Media Services Office as part of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The video will eventually be hosted on the college's Web site.

"Joe Belman has exemplified and defined that spirit that is uniquely American—the courage, energy, resolve and substance that have been the backbone of our nation and that continue to illuminate our path," Buckner said.



BEYOND BORDERS



Daniela Broderick (second from left) and Thomas Liley (second from right) perform "Burlesque" to a world audience at Mahidol University in Bangkok in July.



JJC Music Professors Perform Piece at **40th Annual World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok**

by **Kelly Rohder**

Thomas Liley approached this performance as he had all others.

The JJC music professor practiced his mental focus and concentrated on controlling his airstream to create the proper sound and response of his instrument. He practiced with other musicians.

For this particular performance, he had rehearsed the day before with a Latvian violinist, a Polish cellist, and his Joliet Junior College colleague, pianist and assistant professor Daniela Broderick.

And then the day of the concert arrived. Liley stepped onto the stage, and in front of hundreds of professionals and saxophone students representing more than 70 countries, he presented American composer Claude Baker's new chamber piece, "Burlesque," to a world audience gathered in Mahidol University's School of Music in Bangkok.

The university served as the site of this year's 40th annual World Saxophone Congress meeting, of which Liley's performance—the official unveiling of Baker's piece—was a highlight.

The magnitude of the performance didn't seem to ruffle Liley, who said he prepares for all performances—whether they're in the JJC Fine Arts Theatre or at an international symposium in Hong Kong—the same way.

"Practice, or more accurately, preparation, should at a certain stage of development be primarily mental. Learning how a musical passage sounds and how your part does (or does not) fit into the context, as well as maintaining the mental focus necessary for a good performance are crucial," Liley said.

"Also important is maintaining the control and flexibility of the airstream to create the proper sound and response; the saxophone is a wind instrument, after all. There are various techniques to develop these skills. For example, memorization is an excellent strategy to develop the mental aspect; the practice of crescendo and decrescendo (gradual increase and decrease of volume) are useful to better manipulate the airstream," he said.

In March, the JJC community was treated to a special performance of "Burlesque," when Liley, Broderick, and Michele Lekas of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, and Emily Mantell of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra performed the piece in the Fine Arts Theatre as part of the college's Musica Viva Series for an audience that included Claude Baker himself. Liley said "Burlesque," which is nearly 16 minutes in length, is a chamber work for saxophone, violin, cello, and piano that suggests music of the past and present.

"In Burlesque, Baker evokes the music of Mozart, Liszt, and the 20th century composer George Rochberg," he said. "He pieces it together in a way that I think the audiences have found interesting."

"What I like the most about the work," Broderick added, "is the mixture of old and new, peace and chaos. When we performed the piece at JJC in March, with the composer in the audience, it was great to have the opportunity to discuss some of those details with him."

Broderick was equally thrilled at the chance to accompany Liley to the Congress in Bangkok this summer for the piece's world premiere.

"It was my first performance abroad, although I am from Brazil, so performing in the U.S. was technically abroad for me for a while. Now it is my home," she said.

Liley, a charter member of the World Saxophone Congress, has been asked to play at five symposiums over the organization's 40-year history, which includes performances in



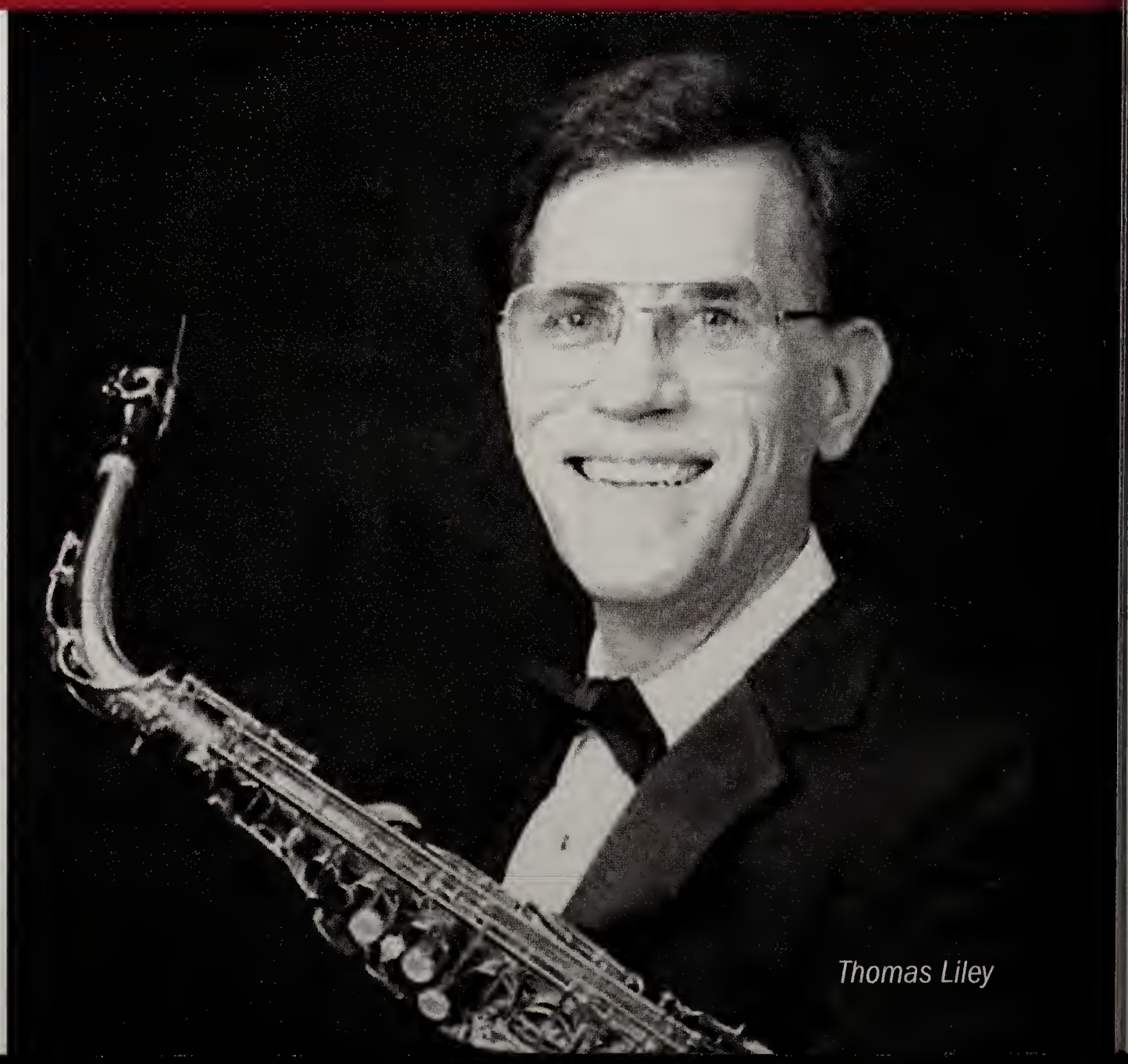
Thomas Liley, Marcin Szawelski, cello, Daniela Broderick, and Inga Causa, violin.

"I want my students to know this is possible for them, too." *– Thomas Liley*

Montreal, Slovenia, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis.

But his impressive list of professional performances is not merely confined to bullet points on his resume. He transforms each experience and each performance into learning opportunities for his students.

"I'm aware of the influence I have as an educator," Liley, who has been a professor of music at the college since 1991, said. "In the most general sense, [my performances] demonstrate to my students what it is like to be a professional musician. I want my students to know that this is possible for them, too."



Thomas Liley



Stay-at-home Mom Becomes Award-Winning Interior Design Student

by **Kelly Rohder**

Lately, Mary Doornbos has found she has much in common with her 15-year-old son.

"We identify with each other's struggles and successes," Doornbos said. "The tables have turned—now he asks me, 'did you do your homework?'"

In the last three years, Doornbos has gone from a stay-at-home mother of four to an award-winning interior design student at JJC.

"Since I've been in school, life has changed," Doornbos said. "I have taken so many years to discover what I am gifted at and now I can move ahead at a good pace."

Doornbos, of Lansing, had spent the last 25 years raising her children and working part time. Throughout those years, she was active in her community, organizing special events and fundraisers for her church and dabbling in opportunities that allowed her to express a budding interest in design.

"I know now that all my life experiences have led to this profession," she said.

Ultimately, it was Doornbos' daughter who, in 2006, encouraged her to go back to school and transform her hobby into a career. By the fall of that year, Doornbos was enrolled at JJC.

"Going back to classes after a quarter of a century is quite grueling at times," Doornbos said. "But my mind is in better shape and I love the challenges of new problems."

By her second year, Doornbos had won a scholarship to continue her education, providing the momentum she needed to continue achieving her goal of becoming an interior designer.

Soon after, her instructor, Barbara Pergande, encouraged Doornbos to enter a contest to design floor plans for new condominiums in Olympia Fields last year.

She won.

"Barbara has been my mentor," Doornbos said. "She is very encouraging to adult students."

Through that experience, Doornbos said her education has given her confidence in her design skills.

"The decisions of the designer impact the space and those who inhabit it for years to come," she said. "My desire is not only to pick beautiful things for beautiful rooms. I enjoy renovating difficult spaces to create effective, well-functioning rooms that enhance human interaction."

The college's Interior Design Program recently received a five-year accreditation from the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), making it only the fourth accredited interior design or kitchen and bath curriculum in the state to receive this status.

This is the highest level of accreditation given by the NKBA.

"By having the JJC Interior Design Program accredited with the NKBA, the graduate seeking interior design, kitchen or bath employment will have increased credibility as having graduated from a nationally-accredited program," Pergande said.

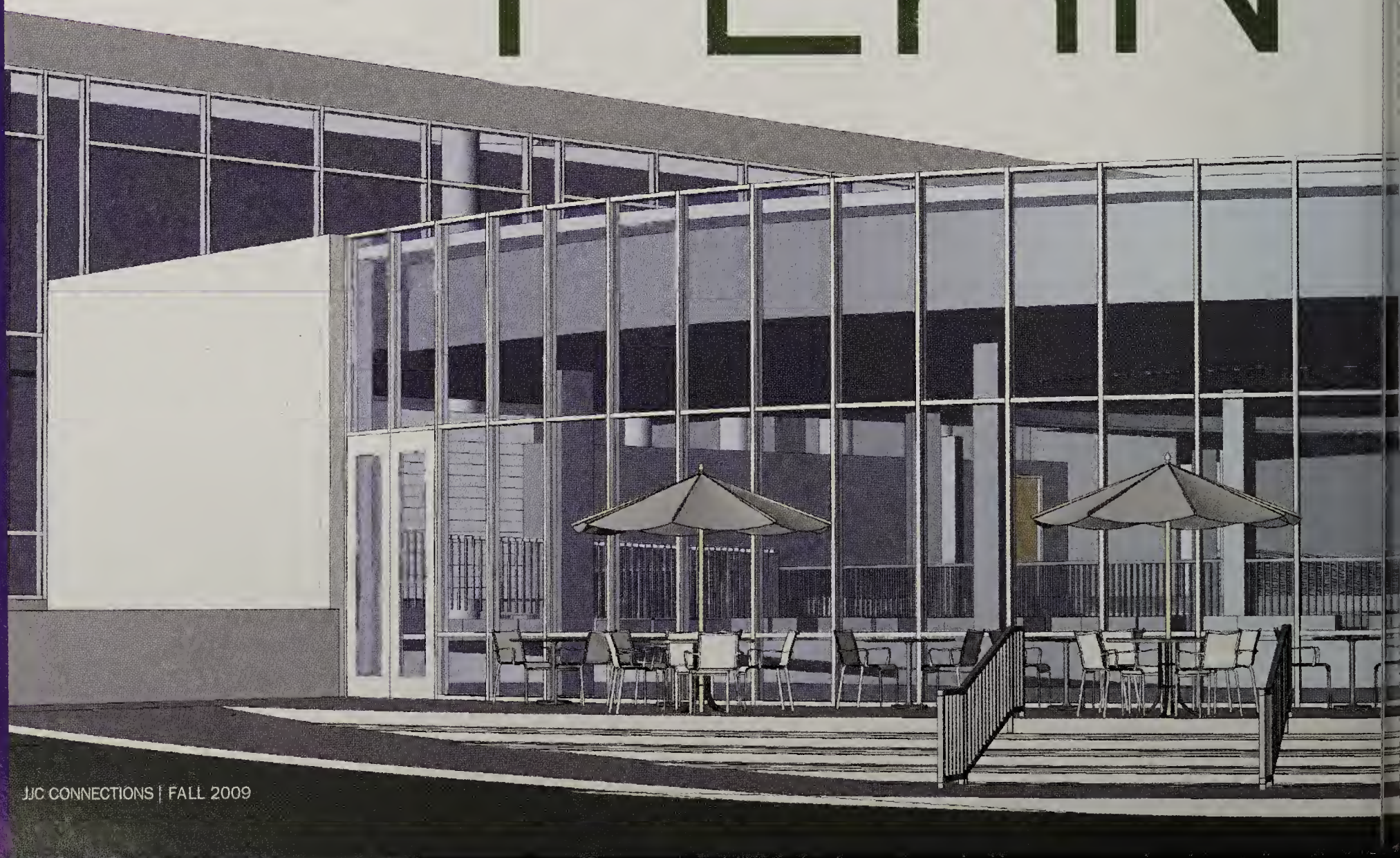
> "The decisions of the designer impact the space and those who inhabit it for years to come." – *Mary Doornbos*





MASTER PLAN

Construction Updates at JJC



Campus Center/KK Building Demolition
The college broke ground on its Campus Center on Aug. 25. In preparation for the project, the college also demolished the KK Building, one of several remaining 40-year-old temporary buildings.

Campus Center Stairwell
A stairwell for the new Campus Center was built in the area between A- and C-Buildings near the Early Childhood Center.

Classroom Remodeling
Fifty-six classroom were remodeled at the JJC Main Campus.

Early Childhood Center/B-Building Renovation
The Early Childhood Center was renovated to include an observation classroom as well as a pre-K, mixed-age classroom. As part of this remodel, new staff offices, a prep room and a new meeting room were added.

Facility Services Building
The Facility Services Building will centralize the college's custodial, grounds and maintenance areas and is expected to be completed in fall 2010.

Fitness Center
The laundry facility was remodeled.

Fourth Floor J-Building Renovation
Classrooms, offices and hallways have been completely remodeled.

Greenhouse
Construction work continues on the 8,500-square-foot greenhouse, which is expected to be completed in fall 2009.

Gymnasium
The floor was refinished, and the upper portion of the walls were repainted.

Library
Eighteen partition offices were installed.

Parking Lots
A total of 326 new parking spaces were added to the JJC Main Campus, bringing the number of spaces to 3,494.

Restroom Renovations
Restroom renovations in the A-Building and J-Building began on Aug. 1. This project includes the replacement of fixtures, accessories, wall finishes, partitions, flooring and lighting and is expected to be completed in both buildings in December 2009.

Roof Replacements
In June, the college began replacing the roofs of the C- and T-Buildings. This involves removing existing stone ballast to install new roofs on both buildings.

JJC Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center
Several improvements have been made, including new emergency phones, a new automatic entrance gate, new generator, new CDL lot (under construction), new landscaping and the paving of the existing parking lot and drives.



Campus Center Groundbreaking (l-r): Rep. Emily McAsey, Sen. Linda Holmes, Chairman Bob Wunderlich, President Gena Proulx, Rep. Dan Rutherford, Sen. A.J. Wilhelmi and Will County Executive Larry Walsh.

For the latest information on the college's construction projects, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/masterplan.**

WAYNE KING

JJC baseball legend reflects on success



With 803 career wins at JJC, two NJCAA Division III World Series Championships and his recent induction into the NJCAA National Baseball Hall of Fame, Wayne King has good reason to be proud of his impressive resume. But JJC's head baseball coach and director of athletics takes his successes and accolades in stride, attributing his achievements to hard work, loyal support from his family and a personal commitment to helping the hundreds of athletes he has coached in his 23 years at JJC.



"We're in student services here, and it's all about helping the kids have success." – *Wayne King*

What motivates you as a coach?

Well the obvious answer from a coach would be wins, but I think what I enjoy most is seeing successful kids. Over the years that I've been here I've seen kids become bigger, stronger, faster, more mature, get scholarships, move on to four-year schools, play more baseball, get married and have kids of their own. That's what I like seeing—the kids really develop.

What do you love about being at JJC?

The thing is that we've built something here. We've built a program; we've built a reputation. There have been opportunities for me to go to some other schools, but that would mean starting all over again. I'm at the stage now where I don't know if I could leave here after I've put so much of my heart and soul into JJC. We're in student services here, and it's all about helping the kids have success: get better in academics, get better in maturity and get better in responsibility.

What do you do for fun outside of your duties at JJC?

I love to golf. I golf as much as I can! I enjoy the time I get to spend in the summer away from baseball, and also when at least I can spend some time with my wife. It's a time consuming job that I love and I enjoy, but being able to spend time with my family is important. Our kids are grown up and gone, so it's just my wife and me now. My wife Janine has been a loyal, loyal supporter of me since I walked in the door here, and none of this would have happened without her support. She's been behind me the whole way.



King and his players celebrate on the field.

What do your accomplishments mean to you?

When you have success and you are recognized, that makes you feel good. But those things don't happen without good kids, good coaches, and people who have bought into your philosophy and who have worked their tails off to be successful. It's very humbling at times, and now that they're going to name the field after me, it's going to be so odd to be looking out from the third-base dugout and seeing your name on the scoreboard. [The college renamed the baseball field Wayne L. King, Jr. Field on September 24, 2009.] It really wasn't my goal in life—my goals in life were to help kids as much as possible.

Are there any coaches you look to for inspiration?

No, I'm very odd. Even though I'm in the sports field, I don't emulate or idolize anyone. I don't have a favorite baseball team, I don't have favorites in anything. I just look at individuals. Now my father was an inspiration to me–he taught me a lot of things. I've picked up characteristics from him and my mom. My mom was compassionate and my father was hard-nosed, and I think I have both of those traits. They were both there to support me – I played sports all the time, and there was never a "no" out of their mouths, or anything like that. And a lot of the reasons I'm sitting here today is because of them.

What is something relatively unknown about you that would surprise people?

I think the ones who know me best know that I'm compassionate – that I'm not a hardnosed bully, that I can be very tender at times. Kids who played for me in my early days can tell you I was really hardnosed at that time. But the ones who know me can see a different side of me. I am what I am, and people know when I'm happy or mad or whatever. Being straightforward may help develop that sense of trust kids have with me. Kids come in and sit in my office and tell me their life stories, so yeah there's a lot of trust that goes back and forth.

Darren Newenhouse

JJC student trustee takes a leadership role in fundraising and volunteer activities



by **Rachel Rose**

> "I don't really consider what I do giving back; it's more giving and receiving because I get a lot out of it, too." – *Darren Newenhouse*

Between his classes, job and role as student trustee on the JJC Board of Trustees, it's a wonder that Darren Newenhouse has time for anything else.

But the 24-year-old is perhaps most passionate about his commitment to volunteer and fundraising work as a member of four students clubs and organizations.

Since coming to JJC, Newenhouse has taken on roles with Student Government, the Student Wellness Council and the Natural Science Club, and also started the Volunteer Club.

"Last year I helped organize the Old Time Social, and that was the basis for forming the Volunteer Club," he said. "We've done three of these events so far, and we get better each time we do it."

Seniors and students dance to live band music at the Old Time Social, while raising funds for seniors who have difficulty affording medications. To date, the Old Time Social has raised approximately $2,000 for the Senior Services Center of Will County.

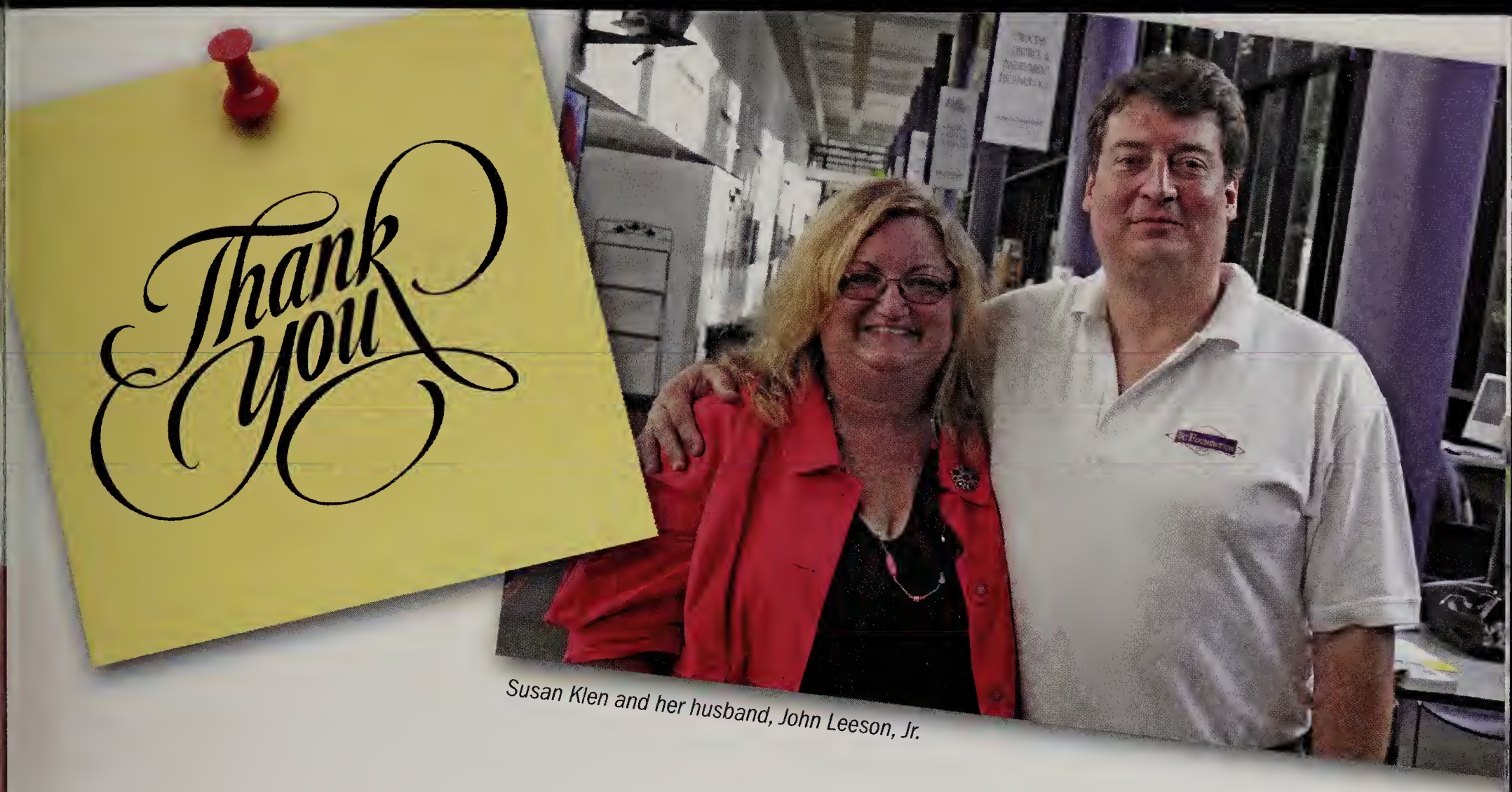
Newenhouse also worked on a restoration project last year with the Volunteer Club and the Natural Science Club to eliminate invasive plant species in an area near JJC's lake, and has helped promote and organize a fundraiser in honor of a former JJC student who died of ovarian cancer.

His next major project will be the Holistic Wellness Council, a new student club formed by the merging of the Volunteer Club and Student Wellness Council, for which he will serve as co-president.

"I already have a group of students really psyched about it," he said. "We're going to have everything—peer-to-peer workshops, wellness information, and things that encourage student leadership. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Newenhouse invests much of his time in volunteer activities and student clubs because he considers these activities a natural thing to do as a member of his community.

"I don't really consider what I do giving back; it's more giving and receiving because I get a lot out of it, too," he said. "I find that getting involved improves the state of everyone else, which improves the state of society, and which then improves me personally. I want to live in a good community, so I need to be part of the community and act in the way I want to see it changed."



Susan Klen and her husband, John Leeson, Jr.

Susan Klen

Funding a scholarship is the best way to say thank you!

by **Jeff Julian**

For JJC alumna Susan Klen, creating a scholarship was the best way to say thank you, regardless of her economic situation.

Klen, 45, and her husband, John W. Leeson, Jr., 46, who both graduated from Joliet Junior College in May, returned to college as adults looking to make career transitions. Klen came to JJC after a layoff; her husband began at the same time and was laid off in March of this year.

Klen said their own experiences as returning adult students without jobs motivated them to establish the scholarship because it was something they knew was happening not only in their own home, but across the country.



Both Klen and Leeson received scholarships from the Joliet Junior College Foundation.

"We decided to make the scholarship for someone 45 or older that had been laid off in the last year," said Klen. "More than anything, it was a thank you to the Foundation, but also just 'pay it forward.'"

Klen, who was elected to the college's Board of Trustees in April, said she was surprised to learn that scholarships were available for people her age.

"I kind of thought scholarships were geared toward 18-year-olds. I had my shot and I wasn't going to be able to get one," Klen said.

But while Klen was a student worker at the college's greenhouse, she met Foundation executive director Kristin Mulvey, who quickly dismissed her notions about scholarships. Mulvey helped Klen apply to receive her first scholarship through the Joliet Women's Club.

"The great aspect of community college is that we serve all ages and so do our scholarships," Mulvey said. "Donors look for students that are passionate about receiving a degree or certificate no matter what their age might be."

Klen said prospective recipients of the scholarship should remember that the value of education starts the minute you decide to go back to school.

"It looks good to a potential employer," Klen said. "That's the kind of person an employer is looking for—someone that is trying to improve themselves."

Alumni Notes



2009 alumni award winners Dick Brandolino, J. D. Ross and Tammy Perkins with President Gena Proulx.

1960 **Sally Leighton** has retired as the vice president of Wells Fargo Bank in California.

1966 **Robert Childress Jr.** received a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and completed an M.A. at Central Michigan University. He later joined the U.S. Air Force and was initially trained as an air traffic controller in Florida. Childress was then accepted to Officers Training School and became a B-52 Bombardier in Strategic Air Command (SAC) and earned an M.S. at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He went overseas to work for NATO at the Royal Air Force Base in England as an emergency actions officer. After completing his degree, he worked for Air Force Space Command, NORAD, and Unified Space Command in the area of space logistics. He retired from the Air Force and worked as a contractor for a company called ARINC. Childress was also an associate professor at the Colorado Technical University. He is currently retired (a second time) and living in Colorado Springs, Colo.

1968 **Mary Kinder** received a B.A. in English from College of St. Francis and an M.A. degree in interdisciplinary education from Santa Clara University. Kinder has three children and is currently living with her husband, Paul J. Kinder, in San Jose, Calif. She is a science instructor at the Youth Science Institute and teaches yoga at the YMCA.

1969 **Dolores Philiph** has left the field of accounting after more than 20 years and started a company called Organizing with Feng Shui. She also has started Angles' Whispers, a holistic health resource and learning forum.

1970 **Jacque A. Klika** is currently working for Joliet Junior College as manager of Student Accommodations & Resources (StAR). Klika transferred from JJC to College of St. Francis where she earned her B.S. in psychology and elementary education and her M.S. in educational administration. She married John Klika and has five children; she is still living in the Joliet area. In 2007, she began her doctoral work in literacy at Northern Illinois University. Klika has worked in numerous volunteer capacities throughout the area and she is currently on the Board of Directors for the Will Grundy Center for Independent Living.

1973 **Debra Webster** earned a B.S. at George Williams College and an M.A. in speech-language pathology at San Jose State University. After college, Webster returned to Joliet and worked at Guardian Angel Home. In 1976, she moved to California where she met her husband James Reber. Today, Webster is self-employed as a clinical liaison and clinical coordinator.

1979 **Michael K. Tadla** has been employed in the financial services sector for the past 30 years. Tadla is a past Alumni Association Board member and executive committee member.

William J. Dixon completed an M.B.A. in 1986 and his Ph.D. in 2007. Dixon discussed "Social Networks and Knowledge Management Systems Use" at the World Computing Congress in Milan, Italy, in September 2008 and again at Kent State University in March 2009.

1983 **Kim O. Fornero** spent three months in 2004 working the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, and two months in 2008 working the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.



(l-r) Kelly Myers, assistant director of institutional advancement and alumni relations, Carletta Seay, Alumni Board president, President Gena Proulx, and Lynne Lichtenauer, alumni director of JTHS present Marie Ghilain with flowers honoring her as JJC's oldest living alumna.

1999 **Michael Strysik** graduated in 2001 from Northern Illinois University's College of Business Operations Management & Information Systems (OMIS) Program. For the last seven years, Strysik has been helping organizations find ways to leverage their people, processes, and technology. In 2004, he married his wife Christina. He has two children. Strysik recently accepted a new position at Logicalis as business development manager for consulting sales.

2003 **Kristin Hulva** got her B.S.N. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is currently pursuing a master's degree at Northern Illinois University to become a family nurse practitioner. Hulva works in the critical care unit at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Ill.

2005 **Kelly Cavanaugh** is a certified pharmacy technician at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford and a pharmacy technician instructor at Rasmussen College. Cavanaugh is getting married this September.

2008 **Bria L. Stubblefield** lives in Nashville, Tenn., and is in her first year of her doctorate of pharmacy program at Belmont University where she is a student representative on the School of Pharmacy Awards Committee. She is a member of the American Pharmacist Association and the Tennessee Pharmacists Association.



We need your e-mail address and other pertinent information about you, including news about your family, your career, and any other information you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**



Winners of the 2009 Foundation golf outing.

2009 Golf Outing

The Joliet Junior College Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank:

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Gena Proulx, Ph.D.
Mark Schneidewind
Ryan Smith, Ph.D.
Delia Ulloa-Jimenez
Pat Van Duyne

Golf Winners

First Place Team Bob Filas, Dan Kelly, Dan Southcomb, Bob Wunderlich

Longest Drive Emilio Rodriguez (men's), Concettina Jancarik (women's)

Closest to the Pin Jack Perella

Longest Putt Mike Brenczewski

JJC Foundation 2009 Golf Outing Committee

Richard DeGrush, Co-Chair
Joe Burla, Co-Chair
Dick Dystrup
Bill Greiner
Wayne Klasing
Bob Klein
Sharon Medek
Kristin Mulvey

Upcoming Events at JJC

December 18, 2009	Winter Commencement
February 2010	Scholarship Recognition Event
April 2010	Donor Dinner Recognition Event
May 14, 2010	Spring Commencement
June 13, 2010	29th Annual JJC Alumni Brunch
June 21, 2010	20th Annual JJC Foundation Golf Outing



Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for up-to-date information on events.

Help JJC GO GREEN!

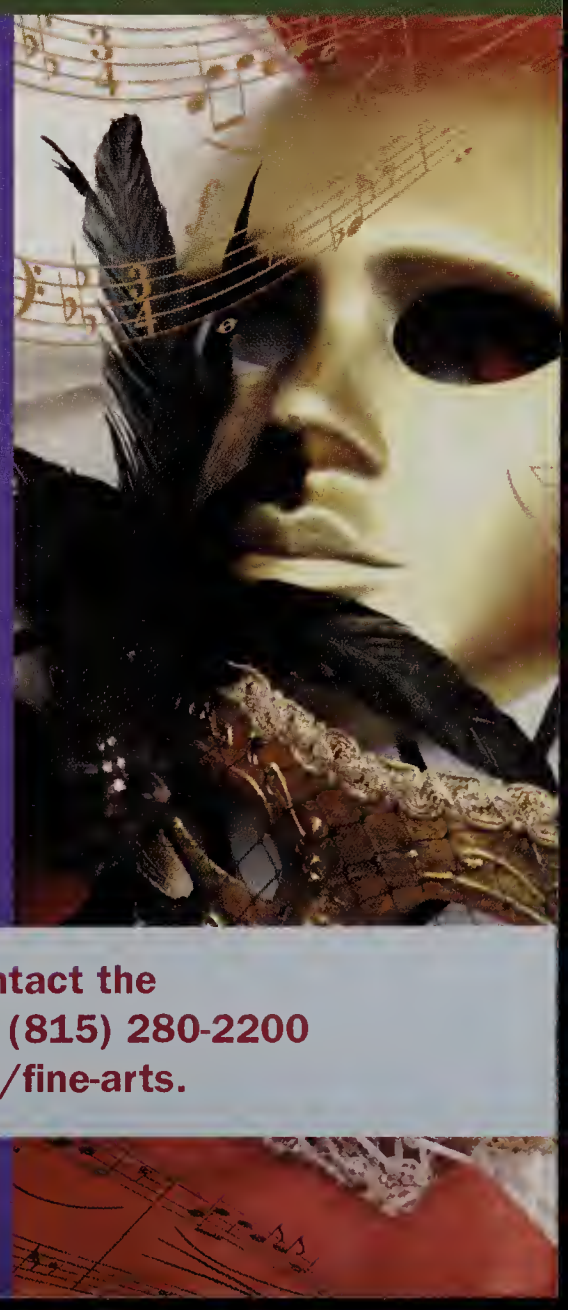
The college is committed to being environmentally responsible by reducing consumption of the earth's natural resources, which includes paper.

JJC IS GOING GREEN

To help us reach this goal, join our e-mail list and we'll send you the information you need to know, electronically without using paper. This magazine, as well as other communications from the college, is available in an electronic format, so help us reduce our impact on the earth by using e-mail. Send your e-mail addresses to kmyers@jjc.edu. JJC and the environment appreciate your consideration!

CULTURE AT JJC!

Every year the Fine Arts department offers a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. With excellent theatre productions, must-see art gallery openings and nationally recognized musical offering is the college is a cultural destination in the Chicagoland area.



For more information contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

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joliet junior college magazine

ONLINE LEARNING:

Changing the Classroom at Joliet Junior College

Telling Tales
- Spotlighting Success Stories at JJC

The JJC Lake Restoration Project

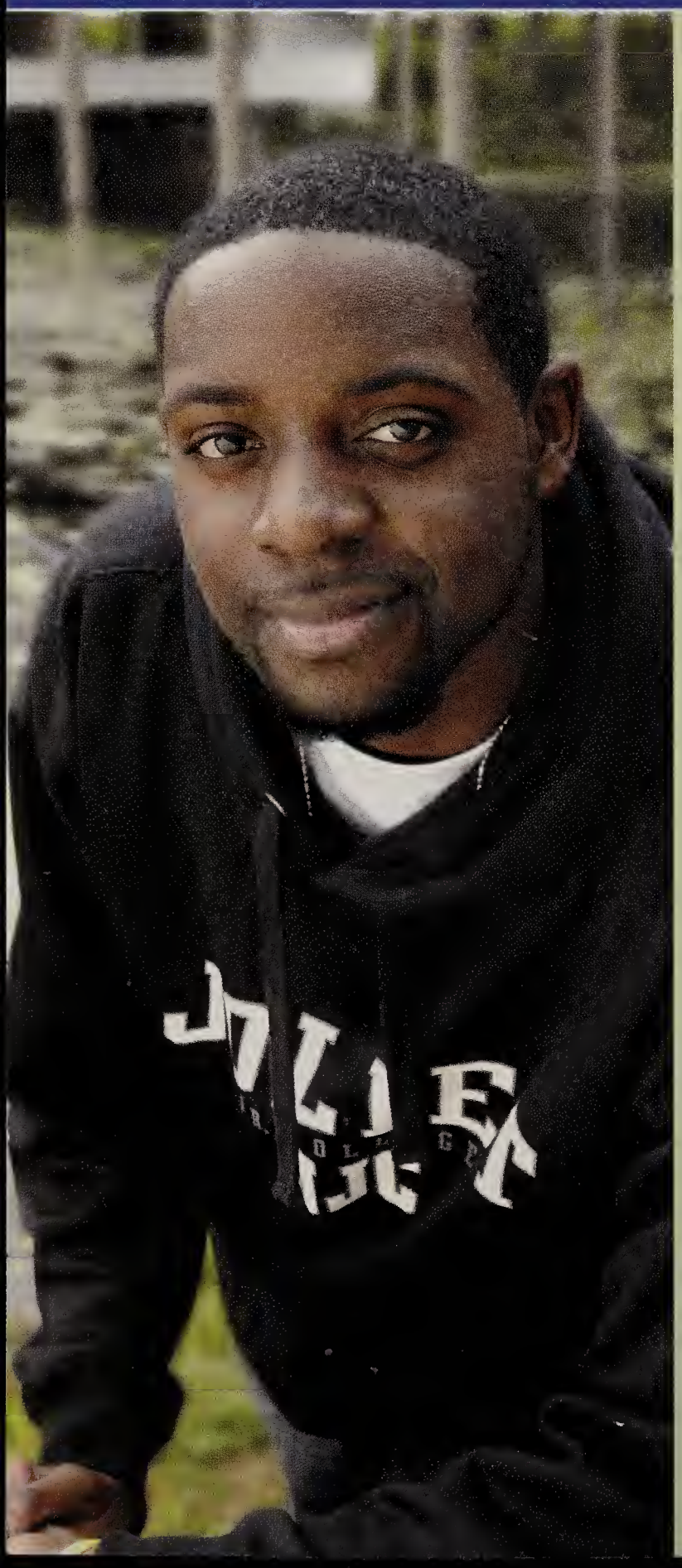
JJC Annual Report
- 2009 in Review

SPRING 2010



Joliet Junior College

Changing Lives and Building Futures
A look back at 2009



Record-breaking enrollment

- Student enrollment was up nearly 7% in spring 2009.
- It rose 8.5% in fall 2009 to 15,288 students, marking the highest enrollment in college history.

Support for students

- Approximately 700 scholarships were awarded to students in 2009.
- 130 veterans received full tuition benefits at JJC through the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Academic excellence

- JJC's Interior Design Program received a five-year accreditation from the National Kitchen and Bath Association, only the fourth accredited interior design or kitchen and bath curriculum in Illinois with this status.
- The Culinary Arts Program received a seven-year accreditation from the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation, making it one of only six schools in the country to earn the foundation's longest accreditation.

Facilities improvements

- Completed construction of a LEED-registered greenhouse facility with a classroom and three greenhouses using a passive ventilation system to reduce energy consumption.
- Began construction of a Campus Center, which will also seek LEED-certification, to provide one-stop access to all student services.

Success in athletics

- JJC's athletics director and head baseball coach, Wayne King, was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Baseball Hall of Fame.
- The men's football team won the NJCAA Graphic Edge Bowl.

JOLIET
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To learn more about JJC, visit www.jjc.edu or call (815) 729-9020.

CONNECTIONS

CONTENTS



Telling Tales

With 109 years of history, Joliet Junior College has changed lives too numerous to recount in a single story. Read excerpts of success stories culled from the college's popular Web feature, Spotlight.



From Podiums to Podcasts

As online learning becomes a popular option for students, Joliet Junior College faculty and staff continue to incorporate technology-based learning options, which are redefining the classroom.



Beyond Borders

JJC police officer Joe Eckols pursues his passion for basketball in Australia as part of the World Masters Games.



From Green to Clean

The college's grant-funded restoration project has restored the natural beauty and ecological health of one of the signature features of the Main Campus—the JJC Lake.



Late Night with Jason Sheedy

JJC alumnus Jason Sheedy takes his act to the small screen as an intern for the "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" show.

04 News Briefs

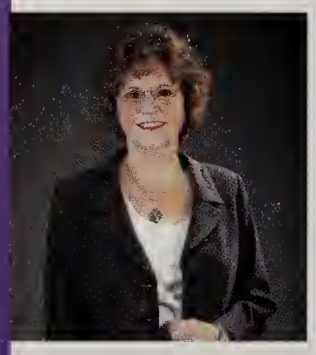
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23 Joliet Junior College 2009 Annual Report

From the JJC President

CONNECTIONS



The Joliet Junior College Annual Report is designed to give you more than just a comprehensive look at the college's finances. By including the report in our college magazine, we hope you are able to analyze the college's financial information through a different lens: the success stories of the JJC community.

Our students and alumni do well in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the community. This is possible, in part, due to the college's responsible and sound fiscal planning. Despite decreasing support from the state of Illinois, the college continues to provide quality higher education at an affordable price. For the past 37 years, the college has presented a balanced operating budget and has been honored with the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fifth year in a row.

The financial strength of JJC is a testament to the good work of our trustees, faculty and staff, whose stories are told within the pages of this magazine.

Joliet Junior College is your community college. Through your continued support, we are staying strong in a difficult economy. Thank you for all that you do on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gena Proulx
President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

The purpose of Connections is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine will serve as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Connections is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Over the past year, I have met some wonderful JJC alumni who are making a difference in their work and the communities that they reside in. In June 2009, we hosted the 28th Annual Alumni Brunch and honored the classes of 1959, 1969 and 1979. We were honored to have John H. Barnes '41 in attendance—John traveled from Pittsford, N.Y., to visit his family in Joliet (Robert Barnes '48 and Shirley Swithin) and reconnect with classmates from JJC. John is retired from Eastman Kodak. Today, he spends his time at his country club. He is also active in his church and still participates in a number of charitable organizations.

In July, I traveled to San Francisco for the Council for Resource Development (CRD) Alumni Workshop and met two dedicated alumni—Debbie Webster '73 and Mary Kinder '68. Debbie and Mary joined me in San Francisco for a dinner filled with memories of JJC. Mary, who completed her graduate degree in interdisciplinary education, teaches at the Youth Science Institute in San Jose and is a certified yoga instructor. Debbie completed her undergrad work at George Williams College and earned her graduate degree in speech language pathology from San Jose State University. Today, she works in neuro-rehabilitation. Both ladies have wonderful memories about JJC and the faculty, staff and administration that made their time on campus unique. I found it extraordinary that both Mary and Debbie found shared memories of Hank Pillard, former dean of students, and Vera Smith, former registrar and English instructor. The evening allowed me the opportunity to learn why JJC is such a special part of the lives of our alumni.

In November, I was fortunate to have traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the national CRD conference where I met Theresa Gall '96 who works as an accountant for a property management firm. Theresa credits her success to the guidance of her professor of economics, Cliff Althoff, and his wife, Maureen McGonagle. Maureen hired her as business manager for DePaul University's campus recreation department with the management company, Centers. Theresa and Maureen worked together for five years before she was promoted to assistant controller for Centers' sister company, Brailsford & Dunlavey. Today, Theresa is corporate controller for Legum & Norman. Theresa's story is not unlike many JJC alumni, who have been assisted as they venture into the job market by JJC faculty, who offer valuable guidance and direction to our alumni.



Debbie Webster '73 and Mary Kinder '68

If you have memories of JJC that you would like to share, please e-mail me at kmyers@jjc.edu or visit www.jjc.edu/about/alumni and fill out the Reconnect with JJC form. If you would like to organize an alumni gathering in your state, please call me at (815) 280-2218.



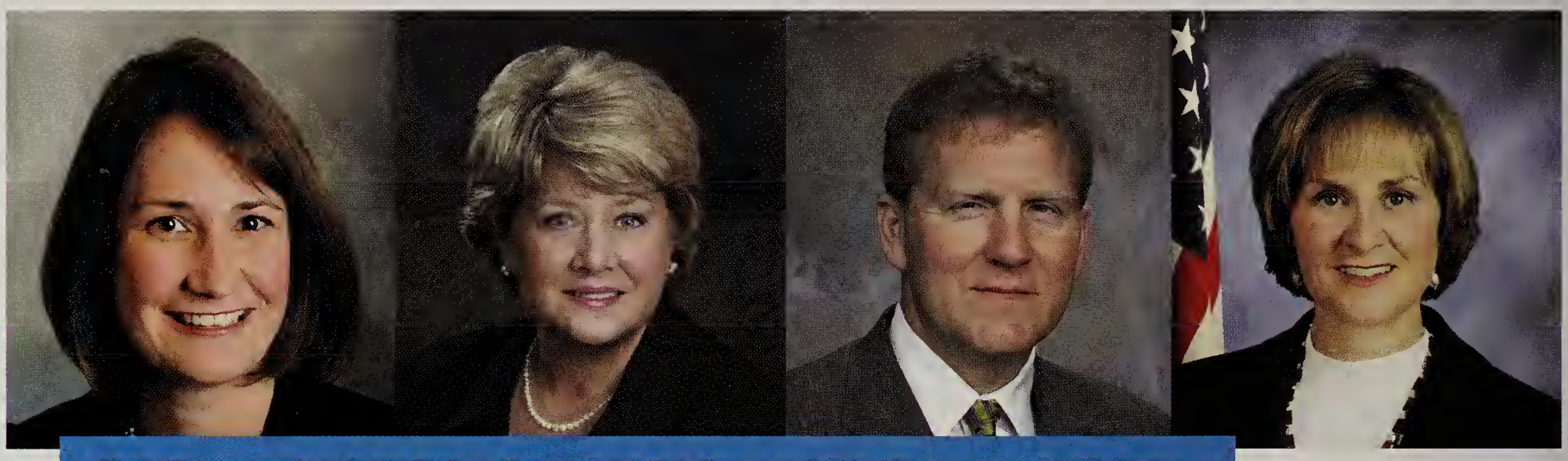
The Swithins, John Barnes '41, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnes '48

Wishing you all of the best in 2010!

Sincerely,

Kelly Myers
Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations

News Briefs



State Representatives Emily McAsey, Renee Kosel, Tom Cross, and State Senator Christine Radogno

State Legislators' Efforts Bring $13 million from Capital Bill to JJC

Thanks to the efforts of four legislators that represent the Joliet Junior College district, the college is the beneficiary of $13 million in funding from the $31 billion public works program Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law in the summer of 2009.

State Representatives Emily McAsey, Renee Kosel, and Tom Cross, along with State Sen. Christine Radogno, ensured that three JJC projects were included in the six-year program, named Illinois Jobs Now. Those three projects are:

- Temporary facilities replacement —$8,181,900 through the Capital Development Board (CDB) (Radogno)
- Infrastructure improvements to the veterans center—$100,000 through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) (Kosel)
- Utilities renovation—$4,522,900 through the Capital Development Board (CDB) (Cross and McAsey)

The temporary facilities replacement project will cover the demolition and removal of the college's 40-year-old temporary buildings, which currently house the Facility Services Department. The funds will also pay for a new replacement building, which will be located on the north side of the Main Campus.

The utilities renovation project will replace the college's 35-year-old chiller system and allow the college to more efficiently distribute cool air throughout the Main Campus.

The DCEO funding for veterans will allow the college to create a dedicated space or center on the Main Campus for the veterans program and to hire a coordinator to help expand and offer one-stop services like financial aid, counseling and student groups for veterans.

JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx said the release of capital dollars to the college couldn't come at a better time.

"These dollars will allow the college to integrate the funds into its current master plan projects," Proulx said. "We are thankful that our legislators continue to support the college and its mission."

Greenhouse Facility is first JJC Master Plan Project Completed

Completed in December 2009, JJC's new greenhouse facility is the first project to be built as part of the college's master plan.

It features a multi-purpose classroom and three greenhouses totaling nearly 9,000 square feet.

The LEED-registered building also features a rainwater harvesting system, passive ventilation system that reduces energy consumption, and an energy reflective roof surface to reflect solar energy and reduce cooling loads.



One of the college's 40-year-old "temporary" buildings is demolished as part of the Master Plan construction.

The college held a grand opening for the building on April 13.

To view photo galleries, a web cam, or learn more about the greenhouse, visit www.jjc.edu/info/masterplan.



Brandon Williams signs with U. of Oregon.

JJC Football Player Signs with University of Oregon

Joliet Junior College football player Brandon Williams has signed a letter of intent to continue his playing career with the University of Oregon.

"I've wanted to play college football since I was little--being able to continue doing that with Oregon is a dream come true," Williams said.

Williams, a 6-foot-4, 240 lb. tight end, led the Wolves with 908 yards on 56 receptions. He scored seven touchdowns this season, while averaging 16.1 yards per catch.

His career high at Joliet Junior College was on Sept. 19 against Ellsworth Community College. Brandon totaled 254 yards on nine receptions, as well as scoring three touchdowns. His performance for that game earned him NJCAA offensive player of the week.

"Brandon Williams is the type of junior college player that everyone wants," Head Football Coach Jeremy Richardson said. "He works hard and truly dedicates himself to what he wants to accomplish whether it be on the field or in the classroom."

Williams has been named to the NJCAA All-American 1st team, Midwest Football Conference (MFC) All League 1st team, Midwest Football Conference East Division 1st team, and to the Region IV All Region 1st team for the 2009 season.

"Brandon had a subpar freshman season," Richardson said. "He put in countless hours in the weight room during the offseason and showed that hard work really does pay off."

Williams, of Chicago, is the first ever JJC football player to go on to play in the PAC 10 conference.

JJC Awarded National Safety Council's Highest Honor

JJC recently received The National Safety Council's Star Award--the council's highest honor--at its 45th Anniversary Defensive Driving Course Banquet in Orlando, Fla. The college won the award for achievements that exceeded all other training centers in the DDC-4 Region.

"We train more people in defensive driving than any other training center in Illinois," Amy Murphy, director of JJC's Corporate and Community Services division and supervisor of the Will County Traffic School, said. "Teaching people how to drive defensively is one of the most rewarding services we provide. All of us are proud to be recognized by the National Safety Council as one of the best among the best."

The college offers the defensive driving program to those given the option to dismiss a ticket from their record by taking the course, but it also enrolls people who may be able to reduce their insurance rates, or those who simply want to refresh themselves on the principles of safe driving.



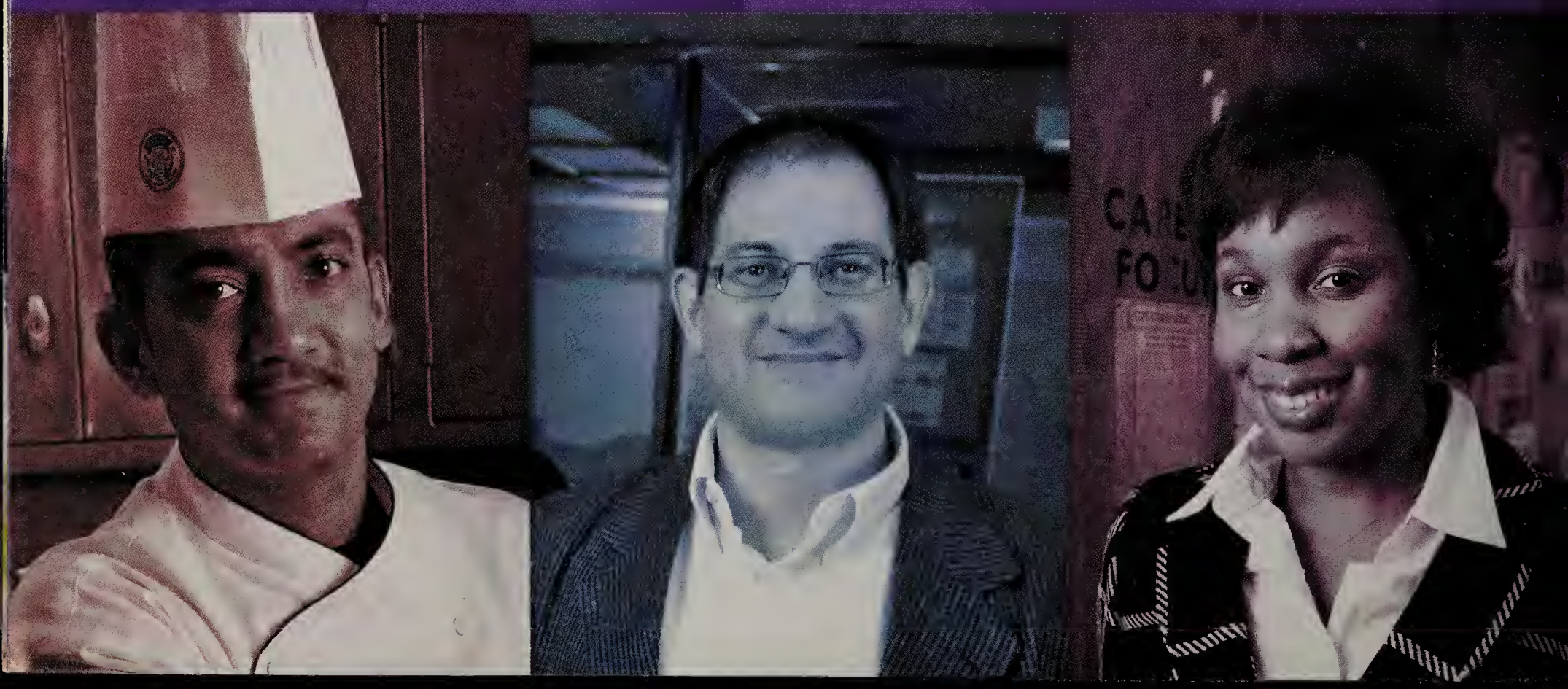
Mary Ann Koerner, traffic school secretary; Amy Murphy, corporate and community services director; and Cheryl Ward, traffic school secretary pose with the Star Award.



TELLING TALES

JJC IS CHANGING LIVES AND THAT'S A STORY WORTH TELLING

by **Jeff Julian, Kelly Rohder and Ericka Wellner**



45,000 people annually have their lives changed in some way by JJC–through classes, job training, or cultural events, to name just a few.

The story of Joliet Junior College has been told through words and pictures in several books, most notably Robert Sterling's "Joliet Junior College 1901-2001: A Pictorial History of JJC" and Susan H. Wood's "The People's Legacy: A History of Joliet Junior College." While both tell compelling tales of the evolution of JJC, could any book ever answer the challenge of telling all of the stories of Joliet Junior College?

Think of the numbers. The college has more than 109 years of history and more than 40,000 alumni. It's estimated that 45,000 people annually have their lives changed in some way by JJC—through classes, job training, or cultural events, to name just a few. It would take more than a thousand and one nights to tell all of those stories. Even Scheherazade would be impressed.

Over the past two years, the college has chronicled the accomplishments of more than 30 students, faculty, staff and alumni as part of its Spotlight series. Though each one is unique, there is common ground—the sense that for each of these people, and many others, JJC is a major part of their life stories.

This is a special look at excerpts from some of those 30 stories. To read the full versions, visit www.jjc.edu/info/spotlight.



Rick Lyman / 1990 JJC graduate

Construction and facility planning manager at JJC/adjunct faculty

The pursuit of a construction education is something that runs in the Lyman family—both Rick and his brother, who is now the vice president of a construction company in Pittsburgh, went through the construction tech program at JJC. While teaching may not have always been on Lyman's preliminary design, he feels a close connection with his students.

"I remember being in the exact same position they are in now. It makes me feel great to explain to them that I am proof that the process pays off," he says.

Bridgette Micheff / Full-time student

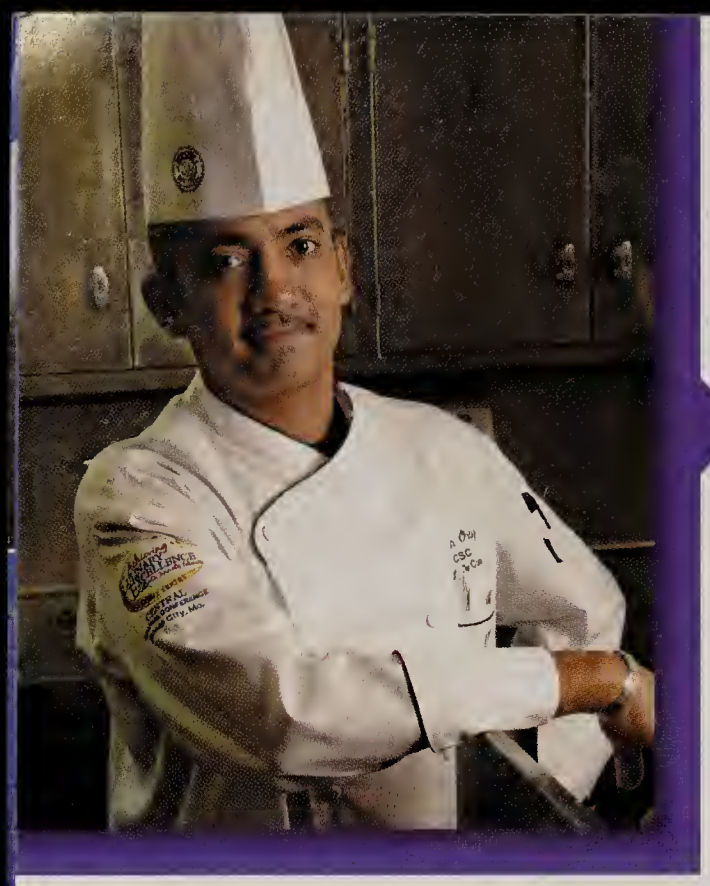
Mom of three and works two part-time jobs

It's now approaching 9 p.m., and having just finished the family's favorite meal of tacos and putting her children to sleep, Bridgette Mitcheff forges ahead doing homework and checking in with her online classes.

She is currently a full-time student splitting her time between four classes: philosophy, astronomy, sociology and a computer sciences course. With her days busy driving her children from gymnastics and theatre practice, Mitcheff has had to take advantage of the wide variety of classes JJC offers online.

"They [JJC] offer so many programs, for so many interests and I feel really blessed to be close to a good affordable college."





Juan Ortiz / 2006 JJC graduate

Executive chef at the Royal Hawk Country Club in St. Charles, Ill.

Growing up, two of Juan Ortiz's uncles each owned restaurants—one dedicated to Mexican cuisine and the other South American cuisine. He has worked in the restaurant industry since the age of 18, starting as a dishwasher and making his way to lead line cook.

However, Ortiz knew it would take more than just his love for food if he wanted to make a name for himself in the culinary industry. So at the age of 36, he decided the best complement to his fondness of food would be a degree, which he later received from JJC in 2006.

"A neighbor's nephew was talking about going to JJC, so I researched the school and decided it was a better choice for me," says Ortiz. "The way instructors here go out of their way to help and encourage students was different than other colleges."



Paul Wandtke / 2006 JJC graduate

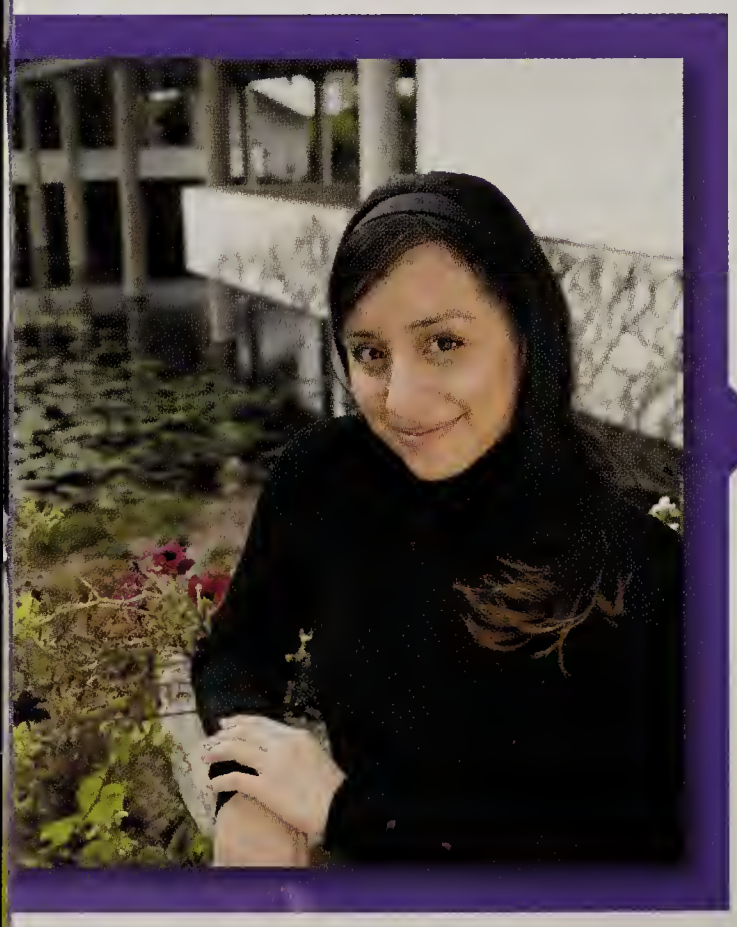
Professional musician and Berklee College of Music student

After receiving his associate in arts from JJC in 2006, Paul Wandtke dove into a professional gig for Carnival Cruise Lines as a show band drummer performing six nights a week.

After three months of countless ports and performances, Wandtke made the decision to continue his education by enrolling at the world-renowned Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts. Wandtke credits JJC for his acceptance into Berklee.

"While at Berklee I was placed into advanced theory classes," he says. "[That's] amazing, considering I didn't even know how to read music prior to JJC."





Flor Cerda / JJC student studying engineering

Plans to transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

Flor Cerda dreamed of attending a U.S. college or university after she completed her last two years of high school in Ecuador. Her hopes of attending a college were temporarily derailed when she learned many colleges would not accept her foreign high school diploma. With JJC's help, Cerda earned a U.S. High School Equivalency Certificate and transitioned into college a semester before everyone in her graduating class.

"Through networking at the college, I have met so many people that have mentored me and inspired me to become a better person every day," Cerda says.

Carletta Seay / 2000 JJC graduate

Development director at the Senior Services Center of Will County
Serves as the president for the college's Alumni Association



After JJC, Carletta Seay transferred to Northern Illinois University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and then received her MBA from Governors State University.

In addition to being affordable and close to home, Seay credits her professors for getting her prepared to transfer to NIU.

"The small ratio between professor and student allowed me to experience valuable one-on-one interaction with my professors. They were very knowledgeable and willing to help. I was able to have access to them if I had any questions," she says.

Jim Baskin / 1988 JJC graduate

Professor for the English and World Languages Department
Has a Ph.D. in English from UIC and a law degree from Northwestern University



Jim Baskin says he's always enjoyed communication and interpretation, so he began teaching rhetoric and literature part-time at JJC in 1995 and has been full-time since 1999.

Baskin says his favorite author is William Shakespeare, which he says is "due to the bard's insight into the human condition." He adds he's also a big fan of "The Simpsons." In certain ways, Baskin says his varied interests reflect those of his students.

"Community colleges help people of all backgrounds to reach their potential. Having attended Joliet Junior College myself, I am proud to teach at such a friendly, efficient, and respected institution."

Dan Filar / 2008 JJC graduate

Marketing major at
Columbia College Chicago



While at the college, Dan Filar, a Chicago native, was an active member of the Honors Program. One thing he'll never forget, he said, was his trip with his classmates to the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Denver, Colo., in November 2007.

"We got to represent JJC on a national level while simultaneously learning about how to build a better, more successful honors program. The conference also functioned as a portal to many of our future career paths," he said.

Angela Sullivan

Professor for the CIOS department

Angela Sullivan says one of the most important things she can do in the classroom is connect with her students.

"I make a concerted effort to make my classes interesting and understandable," the JJC Web professor says. "I have a great feeling of accomplishment when students understand the material and in turn, submit excellent projects themselves."

Bridgett Larkin

Bridgett Larkin is passionate about helping students succeed. As the employer relations coordinator, she works with area employers to provide students with mentoring, internships and employment opportunities. Larkin also assists student job seekers with resumes, cover letters and interview preparation.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?
The most rewarding part of my job is when I equip a job seeker with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully compete in this job market. It's when they call me to say, 'Thanks for doing that mock interview with me; I was really prepared for my actual interview,' that I truly enjoy helping people help themselves.

Describe how you came to realize that you were passionate about pursuing this career.
I realized I was passionate about working in higher education and helping students prepare for employment when I was working as the director of placement at a business college. I found myself trying to assist my students whenever and wherever I could. When I was at the mall with friends, I'd pop into stores to see if they were hiring, and I would network with people at church inquiring about employment opportunities. My students were calling me on my days off to tell me about their interviews, and I would often catch myself at the dinner table wondering if a particular student got the job. Helping my students succeed in their careers meant everything to me, and I was passionate about the role I played in their success.

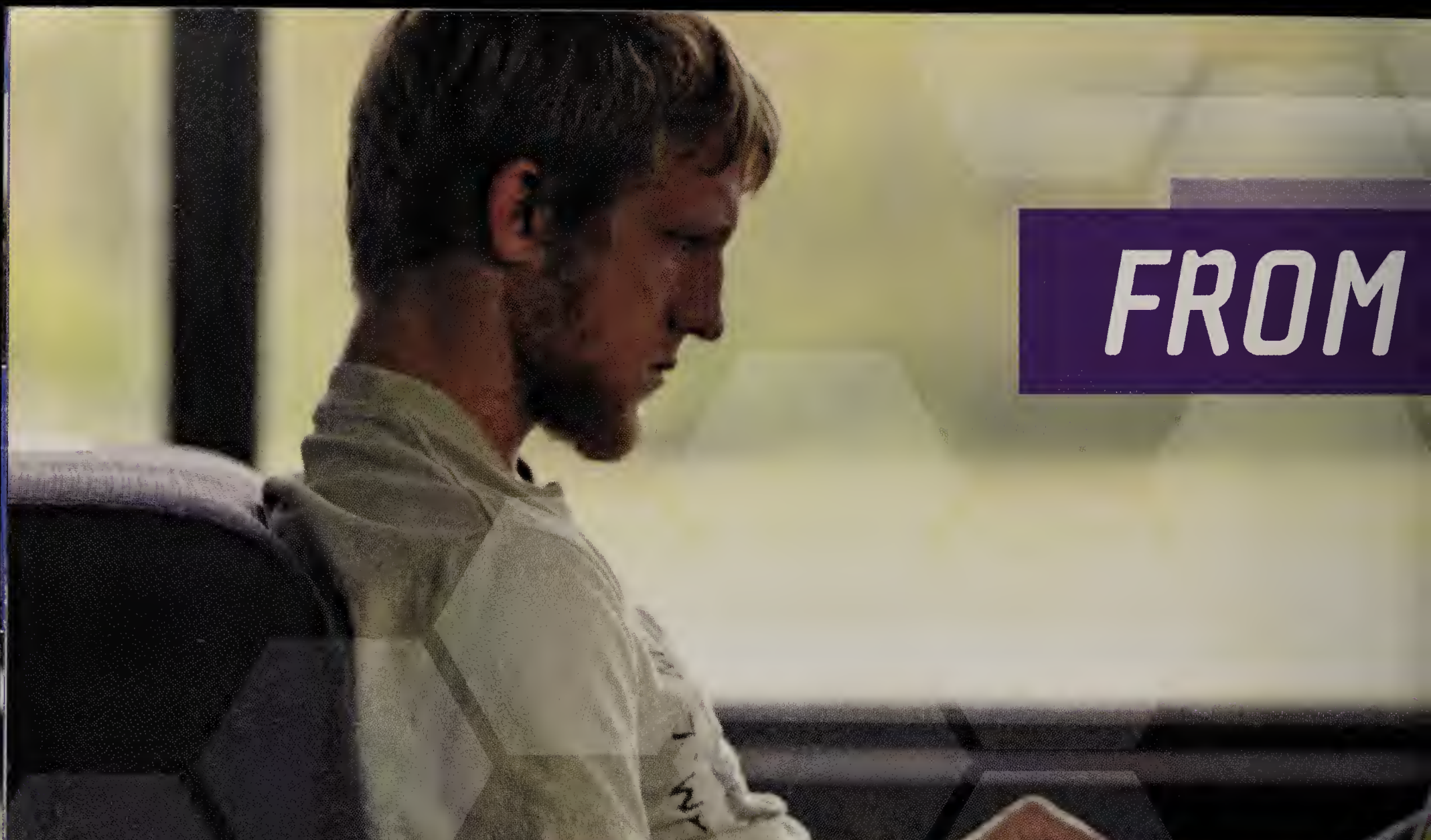
JJC is no different. I have made connections with so many students here, and I believe I am right where I am supposed to be. My passion lies in my ability to influence, motivate, encourage and inspire. I feel blessed to be able to do that every day.

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?
I'm just a few classes away from my graduate degree, so I don't have much time outside of work. But, I am very close to my family so I spend a lot of time with them. I am also involved in the career ministry at my church, so outside of work, I'm still helping others with their careers.





"The most rewarding part of my job is when I equip a job seeker with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully compete in this job market."



FROM

Today, most college students in the United States take the bulk of their classes in a traditional classroom format. By 2014, a majority of them (nearly 19 million) will be taking a combination of both classroom and online classes according to Ambient Insight Research, a leading market research firm in the learning technology field.

Mirroring the national trend, demand for online learning has been growing at JJC. Enrollment in online classes for the spring 2009 semester rose 40 percent over the year prior, and in the spring 2010 semester, it went up 42 percent.

For many students, the appeal of online classes is that they offer a learning environment that conforms to the demands of their schedule.

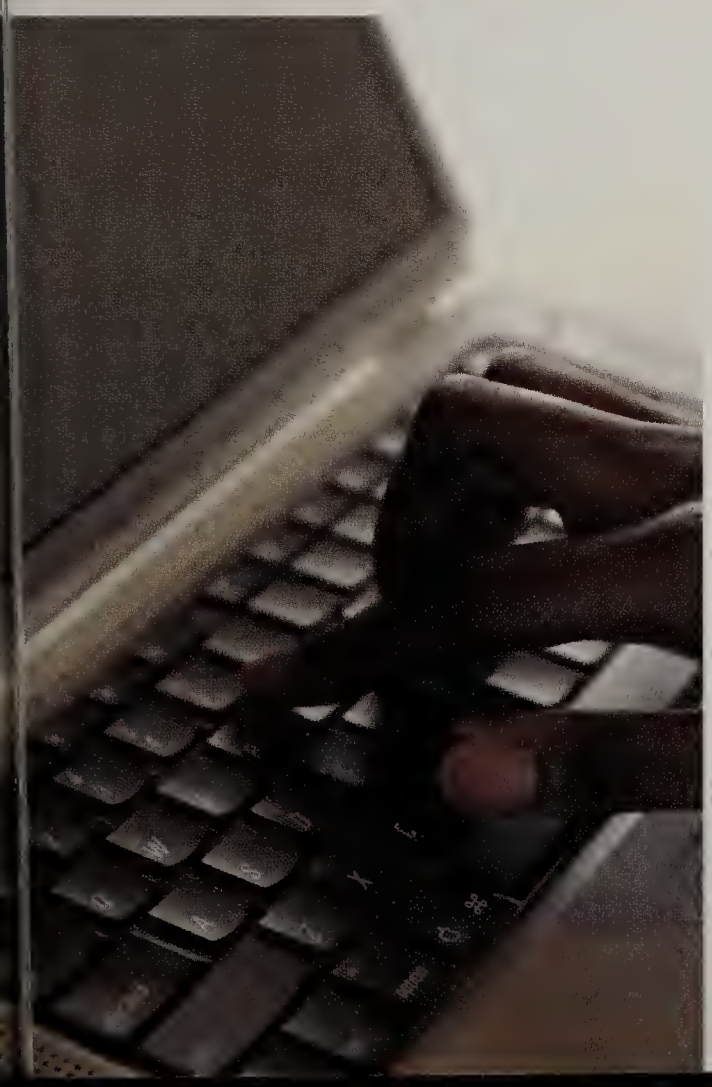
"I really enjoyed taking my pharmacology class online," said second-year nursing student Sommer Hullett. "I love the flexibility that allowed everyone to do the work at their own pace and whenever it was convenient for them, even if that's 3:00 in the morning. It allows everyone to get the work done in the way that works best for each student."

Bill Yarrow, professor of English and iCampus faculty coordinator at JJC, has taught online classes at the college since 2002, and is an advocate of the format.

PODIUMS TO PODCASTS

How online learning is changing the classroom at Joliet Junior College

by **Rachel Rose**



"With the work, travel and child-care concerns that many of our students deal with, the flexibility of online classes allows them to do class work in remote locations at times that are convenient for them," he said. "Offering online classes expands our student body. We're doing really good work offering these opportunities."

Besides the benefits of convenience, Yarrow believes that online classes provide advantages for both students and professors that would not be possible in a classroom.

"Discussions in online classes tend to be much more substantial," he said, "because students have time to think about what they want to share and how they want to say it, as opposed to a traditional classroom setting that requires more immediate response."

Written posts also make it easier for instructors to track each student's level of participation. Instructors can make contributing to discussions a requirement for students, but Yarrow often finds that conversations between students thrive without prompting in the online forums.

Nursing student Katie Ziegler enjoys the interaction in online classes.

"It's actually easier to get to know everyone," she said. "It's a place where a shy person who probably wouldn't say much in a classroom setting can speak their mind, and everyone is equal."

Professor Kathy Wolz teaches the nursing program's pharmacology class, which is only offered in an online format. She finds that as an online instructor, she is constantly

striving to improve the course to ensure that students are getting the resources they need to be successful in the class. To keep the learning process engaging, Wolz incorporates podcasts and videos into her online curriculum.

"In online courses, instructors should be strengthening the skills students need to be active learners," she said.

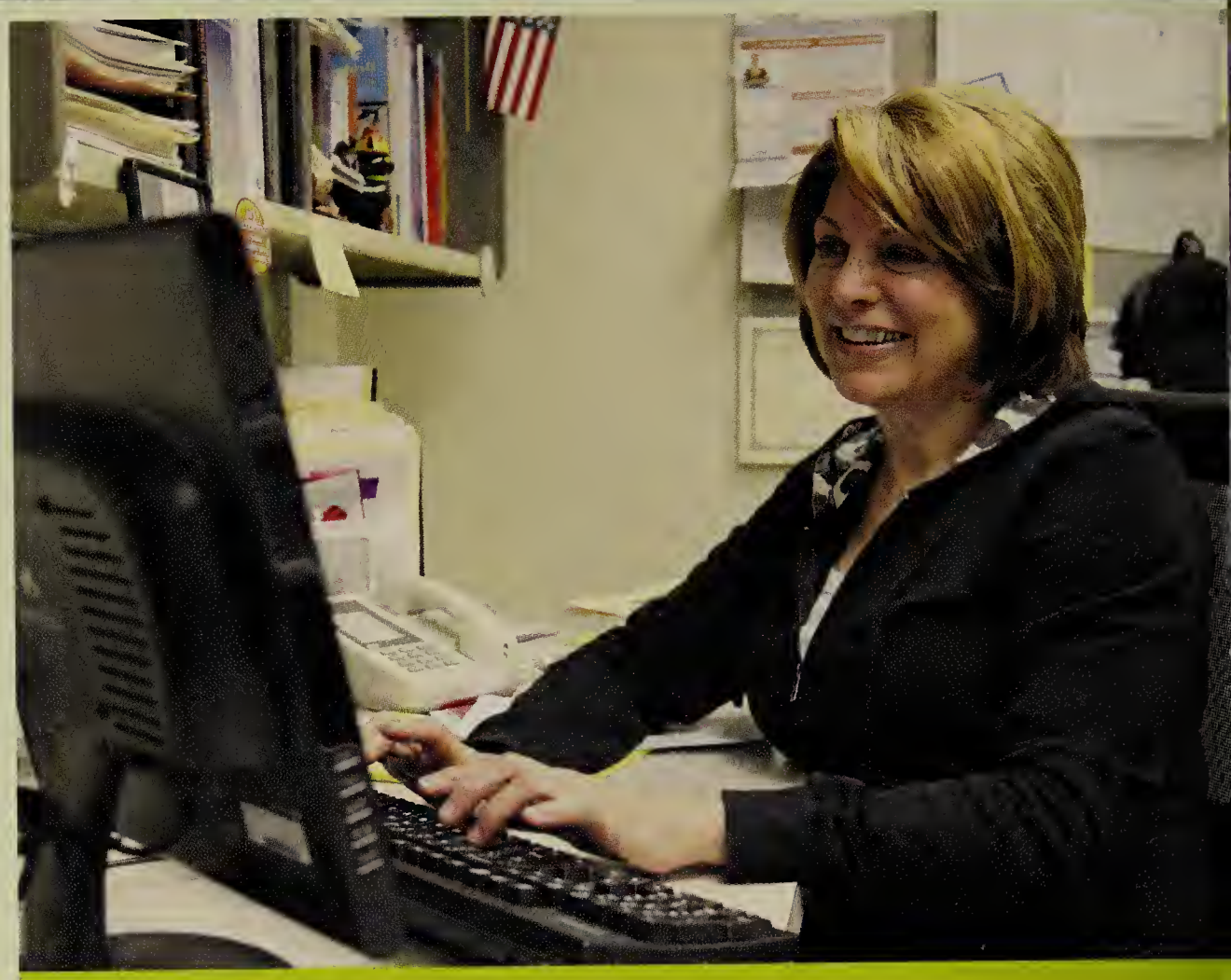
Though some nursing students were initially resistant to the idea of an online-only class, the benefits of the shift are evident. Wolz noted that standardized pharmacology test results improved after the class moved to an online format. She also finds that taking a nursing class online helps her students prepare for the NCLEX, the licensure examination that nursing students take to achieve RN or PN certification, and which is now entirely computerized. In 2009, JJC nursing students aced their NCLEX exams, surpassing the national averages at 95 percent for RN (national 88 percent) and PN at 99 percent (national 86 percent).

"The use of technology in health care continues to grow, and the more we can incorporate it into the learning process the better prepared our students will be for their careers," Wolz said.

Whether navigating online classes is intuitive or challenging for a student, JJC ensures they have the support and resources they need.

"The college offers a combination of services to assist our online students," said Chris Harvey, director of iCampus and distance learning. "In addition to the orientation course, workshops and 24/7 technical support that's available, we also offer tutoring for online classes."

JJC instructors have also demonstrated their commitment to providing excellent



To keep the learning process engaging, professor Kathy Wolz incorporates podcasts and videos into online curriculum.

teaching in a format that meets students' needs. More JJC instructors have earned the Master of Online Teaching certificate than at any other community college in the state of Illinois.

"This really demonstrates the faculty's commitment to ensuring that we offer online courses that are of the highest academic quality," said Harvey.

The Master of Online Teaching certificate can be earned after successfully completing a course administered by the Illinois Online Network, a program of the University of Illinois. The course is designed for faculty, administrators and staff members who seek professional development in online teaching.

Along with an array of courses already offered in an online format, JJC launched its first online degree in the spring 2010 semester: an Associate in Arts degree that can be completed entirely online with the exception of a biology class that must be taken as a blended course (the lab portion of the class must be completed in an on-campus classroom). Online degree programs for Computer Information and Office Systems and Criminal Justice are currently being developed and will be available in the near future.



Successful Connections

Joan Tierney, executive assistant to the president, was elected to the American Community College Trustees (ACCT) Professional Board Staff Network as the central region representative member at large.

Bill Yarrow, iCampus faculty coordinator and professor of English, had eleven poems appear in the print magazines "The Rio Grande Review" and "In the Red" (Liverpool, England), as well as in the online magazines "The Centrifugal Eye," "Up the Staircase," and "New Aesthetic" (India).

Dr. Michael Thune, assistant professor of philosophy, presented a paper entitled "Does Disagreement Lead to Skepticism?" at the following conferences: 63rd Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference at the University of Nevada, Reno; Central States Philosophical Association Conference at Northern Illinois University; and at the Illinois Philosophical Association Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

Bette Conkin, dean of arts and sciences, was selected as a peer reviewer for the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. AQIP is the alternative accreditation process based on systematic quality improvement principles.

Dr. Thomas Liley, professor of music, participated in the 33rd Annual International Saxophone Symposium in Washington, D.C. He led two lectures and performed in one recital at this prestigious U.S. Navy Band event.

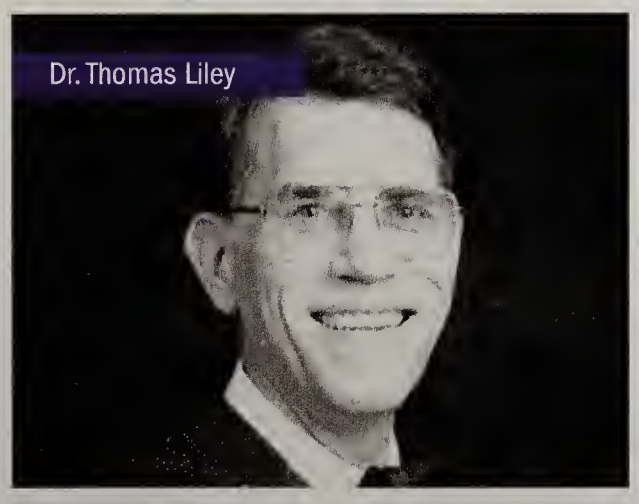
Chef Michael McGreal, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management department chair, was recently selected as a 2010 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award recipient. The NISOD, a consortium of over 700 community colleges and universities worldwide, has a 31-year history of recognizing faculty, staff, and administrators for outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership, and learning.


Joan Tierney


Bill Yarrow


Dr. Michael Thune


Bette Conkin


Dr. Thomas Liley


Chef Michael McGreal

Beyond Borders

JJC police officer overcomes on-the-job injury to compete in international basketball tournament

by **Kelly Rohder**



Joe Eckols (right) competed in the basketball tournament at the 2009 World Masters Games in Sydney.

With 2.6 seconds left, shooting guard Joe Eckols caught a swift pass from his teammate and in one fluid motion, arced the basketball nearly 20 feet to sink it neatly through the net to end the quarter.

Besides electrifying the arena of fans and garnering high fives from his team as he jogged back to the bench, hitting that three-point shot forged a moment in time Eckols says he'll never forget.

In fact, it was almost a moment that didn't happen.

A year earlier, in September 2008, after simultaneously dislocating and breaking his left shoulder while on duty as a Joliet Junior College police officer, Eckols was told by a doctor that he needed surgery and that he might not be able to play basketball in the 2009 Sydney World Masters Games that October.

The World Masters Games—or the Old Man Olympics, as Eckols playfully refers to it—is an international sporting event that gives people of all athletic abilities, as well as former Olympians and retired professional athletes, the chance to compete at an international level in an organized sport. The weeklong event, which is held in a different country every two to four years, includes competitions in over 25 different sports, from archery to cycling to swimming to table tennis.

But Eckols, a 6-foot-4 banker turned police officer and physical fitness enthusiast, had trained weekly with the Chicago-based U.S. team for months. He was determined to go.

"I love this game," Eckols, now 47, said. "But at this point, my body's starting to tell me otherwise."

With the surgery scheduled for December 2008 and the rehabilitation process estimated to take three to four months, Eckols knew he was cutting it close.

The 2009 games would be Eckols' fourth time participating in the World Masters Games. He began in 1998 in Portland, Oregon, 2000 in Melbourne, Australia and 2005 Edmonton, Canada.

The opportunity to play with the U.S. team had come somewhat randomly. He played high school basketball and intramurals in college. As an adult, he played pick-up games with friends at the gym and in 35-and-older league tournaments. In 1998, he was approached by Robert (Bob) Lucenti, a Chicago lawyer and organizer of the World Masters U.S. basketball team.

"He told me I had the right character, the right skill level to play at the two guard position," Eckols said. "He asked if I was interested and of course I said, 'Yes'!"

Eckols joined 75 other men to train for the 2009 games, which would be held in arenas built for the Sydney 2000 Summer Olympics. Every Sunday afternoon, Eckols would head from his Merrillville, Ind. home to a northwest Chicago area gym to workout with his teammates. Though Eckols said physical fitness is an important component in his profession, this weekly ritual proved to be a stress-reliever and a chance to bond with friends and share stories about their lives, families and past World Masters Games.



On the September day he was injured, Eckols, a five-year veteran of the JJC PD, was in pursuit of an individual suspected of stealing books from another student.

As he caught up to the suspect, they fell on uneven ground. Though he was able to apprehend the individual, the fall had injured his shoulder.

"I was glad that I had apprehended this person, and that I had successfully done my job, but then the very next thing that came into my mind was 'Am I going to be able to play?'" Eckols said.

Seven months to the day, after a successful surgery and rehabilitation, Eckols was back at work and back on the court. Not only did Eckols make the 25-hour flight to Sydney, he donned his royal blue and white uniform and helped the U.S. team win the gold medal in the final game against the Australian team. Since the Games' inception in 1989, the event in Sydney ultimately turned out a record number of athletes—28,292 men and women from 95 countries.

"It's a blast [being on the court]. It's indescribable," he said. "Through this, I've gotten to see different countries, meet different people from all over the world and reunite with teammates from all over the U.S. It's intriguing to listen to stories from their time in the NBA and their experience shared on the court. It's given me a lot of perspective on life. It makes you appreciate life a lot more."

from green to clean

THE JJC LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT by **Kelly Rohder**



A project to restore the ecological health of the JJC Lake is nearly complete.

With the help of a $190,000 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the college began dredging 6,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake bottom in October 2009.

By completing the project, the eutrophic body of water will return to an ecologically healthy habitat for fish and wildlife and filter polluted run-off water. Native plant species will also be planted along the lake to prevent erosion.

In the last three decades, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides from surrounding lawns and agricultural fields have flowed into the lake through stormwater runoff. Nutrient-rich sediments accumulated, causing an explosion of plant and algal growth. The activity depleted oxygen levels and led to fish kills.

The 5.8 acre JJC Lake is a central aesthetic feature of the Main Campus. It has a 362-acre watershed, which includes the college campus; parking lots; wooded, farm and open fields; and residential and commercial developments. The accumulation of sediment has reduced the lake's water-holding capacity by 20 percent.

Since the majority of lake-bottom sediment is comprised of fibrous peat, silts, decomposing organic matter, and clay, during the two month dredging process, it was distributed onto the college's agricultural fields. After dewatering, the nutrient-rich sediment will be spread over the fields. The entire project is expected to be complete in summer 2010.



Project highlights

- Best management practices will be implemented to reduce non-point source pollution and ensure the long-term health of the lake.
- Separators and a wetland swale will be installed to filter runoff water from the parking lots.
- A bio-swale and a bio-filter cell will be installed to filter runoff water from agricultural fields, grass fields and residential areas.
- Native plant species will be planted along the shoreline to prevent soil erosion.

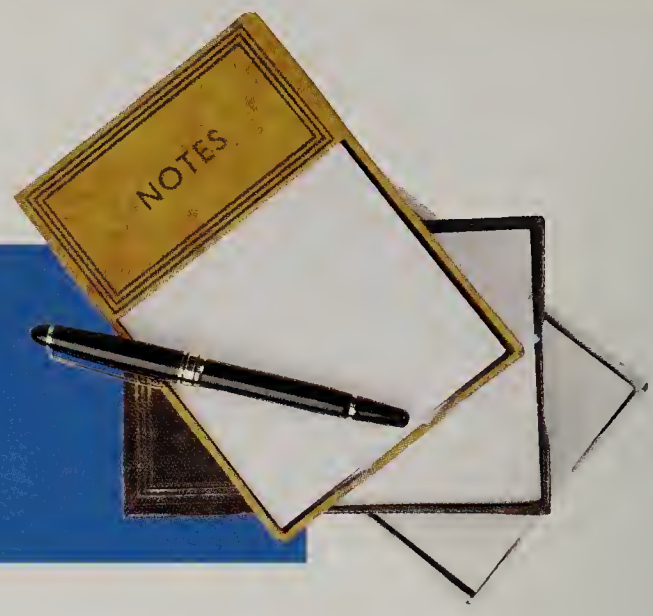
Benefits

- Unsightly floating debris, odor problems and sediment buildup will be reduced.
- A clean, healthy habitat for fish, wildlife and native plant species will be restored.
- Approximately two feet will be added to the depth of the lake on average.
- Education and research opportunities will be increased.
- A valuable outdoor laboratory for JJC faculty and students will be restored and maintained.
- Funding for this project provided, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



For more information on the lake project, **visit www.jjc.edu/info/lake.**

Alumni Notes



1966 **Pat O'Connor** played football and wrestled for Joliet Catholic High School in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He attended Joliet Junior College, where he continued his participation in both sports and was a member of the Wolves 1963 National Championship Wrestling Team. Pat went on to wrestle for Western Illinois University and graduated with his teaching degree.

Pat was instrumental in creating the wrestling program at Illini Bluffs High School in Glasford, Ill., in 1970 and has continued to run the wrestling program there for the past 37 years. He established the first kids wrestling club in central Illinois in 1974 and coached for the next 22 years. His high school teams have won over 500 deal meets, 15 IHSA Regional titles, six conference championships, two IHSA Sectional titles, and have placed 5th (1981) and 3rd (1982) in the IHSA State Finals. Of Pat's 73 state qualifiers, 28 have become place winners—three as state champions.

Pat has been honored eight times as the Central Illinois Class A Coach of the Year; in 1982 the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association (IWCOA) selected Pat as the Class A Coach of the Year. The Glasford Optimist Club named Pat as its Man of the Year in 1983.

In 1994, the IWCOA inducted Pat into its prestigious Hall of Fame. In 2007, Pat was chosen as one of the Grand Marshals for the IHSA State Wrestling Finals.

As a final note, Pat has had the good fortune to coach his three sons, Patrick, Shawn and Casey, and each one has earned a medal in the IHSA State Finals.

1971 **Daniel Wilson** worked with Pittsburg testing lab during the construction of Braidwood Nuclear Power Station (1976-1988). He has also worked as a nuclear security officer at Dresden Station (1988-2000). Since 2001, Wilson has been a bailiff for Judge Richard Siegel in the civil division of the Will County Circuit Court.

1972 **Kathleen Gerz** earned a B.A. in history from the College of St. Francis after graduating from Joliet Junior College. In 1997, Gerz earned an M.S. in education also from St. Francis. In 2008, Gerz retired after teaching for 35 years in the Reed-Custer schools. Shortly after retiring, Gerz and her husband moved to Oshkosh, Wis.

1977 **Janet Adams** has recently completed a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Family and Divorce Mediation from DePaul University's Center for Conflict Resolution. Adams is currently working on completing a certificate program in Group Facilitation also at DePaul. This will lead to an international certification as a certified professional facilitator.

1981 **Kim LeBel** is on active duty as a nurse in the Navy. LeBel was deployed to Afghanistan from April 2008 to April 2009. She is a Purple Heart recipient, is married to Allen LeBel, and has three daughters.

1984 **Paul Dietmann,** after completing an associate in science degree at Joliet Junior College, received a B.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dietmann went on to graduate school and earned an M.S. at UW-Madison. He spent 11 years as a county agricultural agent with the UW-Extension and took his current position with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture in 2007.

Recently, Dietmann wrote "A Scan of the Farm-Level Financial Situation at the End of 2009," an article for publication in Status of Wisconsin Agriculture, 2010.

1992 **Colette Boynton** received her B.S. in special education from Illinois State University and has taught special education for the past 15 years. Boynton is currently working on her master's degree for educational administration, expecting to graduate in May 2010.

1994

Patricia Shue has worked in the mathematics department at Joliet Junior College for over 23 years—two years as student tutor/classroom assistant, six months as an admissions information clerk, and 21 years as the mathematics department secretary. Shue was president of the Clerical Council, Local 604, for four years, charter president of Phi Theta Kappa, and a Phi Theta Kappa co-adviser for seven years.

2003

Jeff Duncan, owner of Duncan Foods, has had two of his sauces place first and second in the 2009 "The Hot Pepper Awards." His FIRE took first place, and his HOT took second under the "Unique" section of the BBQ sauce category. At present, Jeff is waiting for word from Wal-Mart to determine whether they will carry his products. More information about Duncan Foods can be obtained at www.drunkenweenies.com.

Madelyn Thomas is currently a clinical research coordinator at Joliet Oncology. Thomas acquired her B.B.A. from Robert Morris University.

2004

Laura Schmidt owns a remodeling company and has a B.S. in leadership communication. Schmidt has a real estate broker license and continues to take classes at JJC.

2006

Miguel Cepeda received an associate of arts from Joliet Junior College. He went on to receive a B.A. in economics from Illinois State University in 2009.

2008

Catherine Jurisic received a bachelor's degree with high honors in interdisciplinary studies with minors in business administration and management in August 2009. She was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society in November 2009. Jurisic is currently attending Maryland University for an M.B.A. and a M.S. in procurement and contracting.

Yolanda Hopson attended DeVry University and graduated summa cum laude in October 2009, receiving a B.S. degree with an emphasis on accounting.

Johnathan Wilson was nominated by the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee to serve on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). This nomination was forwarded to Governor Quinn who subsequently appointed Wilson as the sole student representative to the Commission. The Senate of the Illinois State General Assembly has recently approved Governor Quinn's appointment, which allows Wilson voting privileges on the ISAC Commission.

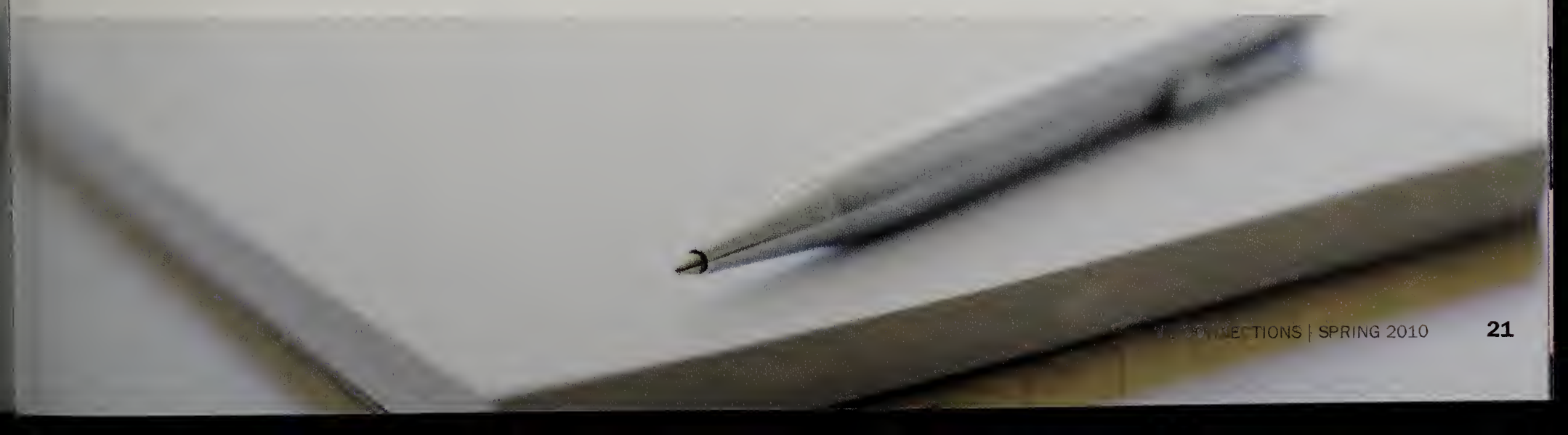


We need your e-mail address and other pertinent information about you, including news about your family, your career, and any other information you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**



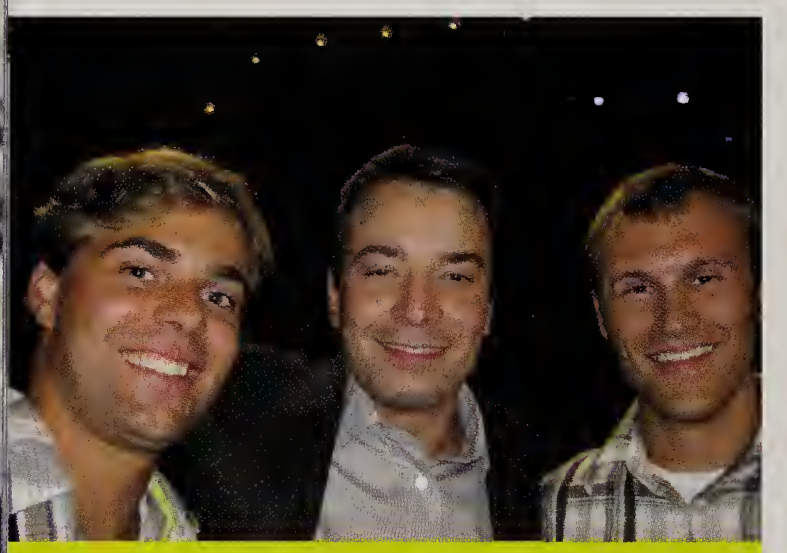


LATE NIGHT WITH JASON SHEEDY



JJC graduate takes his act to TV talk show as intern

by **Ericka Wellner**



Sheedy (right) with Fallon on set.



Once roaming the halls at Joliet Junior College, Jason Sheedy finds himself on the streets of New York City on the search for enough donuts to feed 300 hungry audience members for the "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" show.

Sheedy won the Fallon show's Late Night Intern Contest this September—a whirlwind from where he was a few years ago.

After earning an associate degree from JJC in 2006, he transferred to Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), where he is currently a full-time student.

Last summer, back in his hometown of Morris, Ill., Sheedy began searching for an internship. After sending numerous e-mails and applications and having little luck, Sheedy began losing hope.

Having heard rumor of the intern contest, Sheedy decided to submit a video. In early September, Sheedy was informed that he had been selected as one of ten finalists, who were all asked to create a video segment depicting their lives while at college.

So Sheedy tied himself to a chair in a dark room in a mock set-up of an interrogation. Begging for the life of his friend, he was forced to hand over a DVD describing his life at SCAD.

Two days after sending his video submission, Sheedy answered an unexpected phone call from NBC. He was told he had won the competition and was instructed to board the next flight to New York City as a guest of Fallon's show.

"As soon as I entered the studio, everyone was very welcoming. I felt very comfortable," Sheedy said. "And Jimmy was exactly how he appears on the show—very positive and upbeat."

Not long after, Sheedy was already being rushed out on his first assignment, collecting enough donuts for the entire studio audience. Sheedy now receives monthly assignments and blogs on the show's Web page.

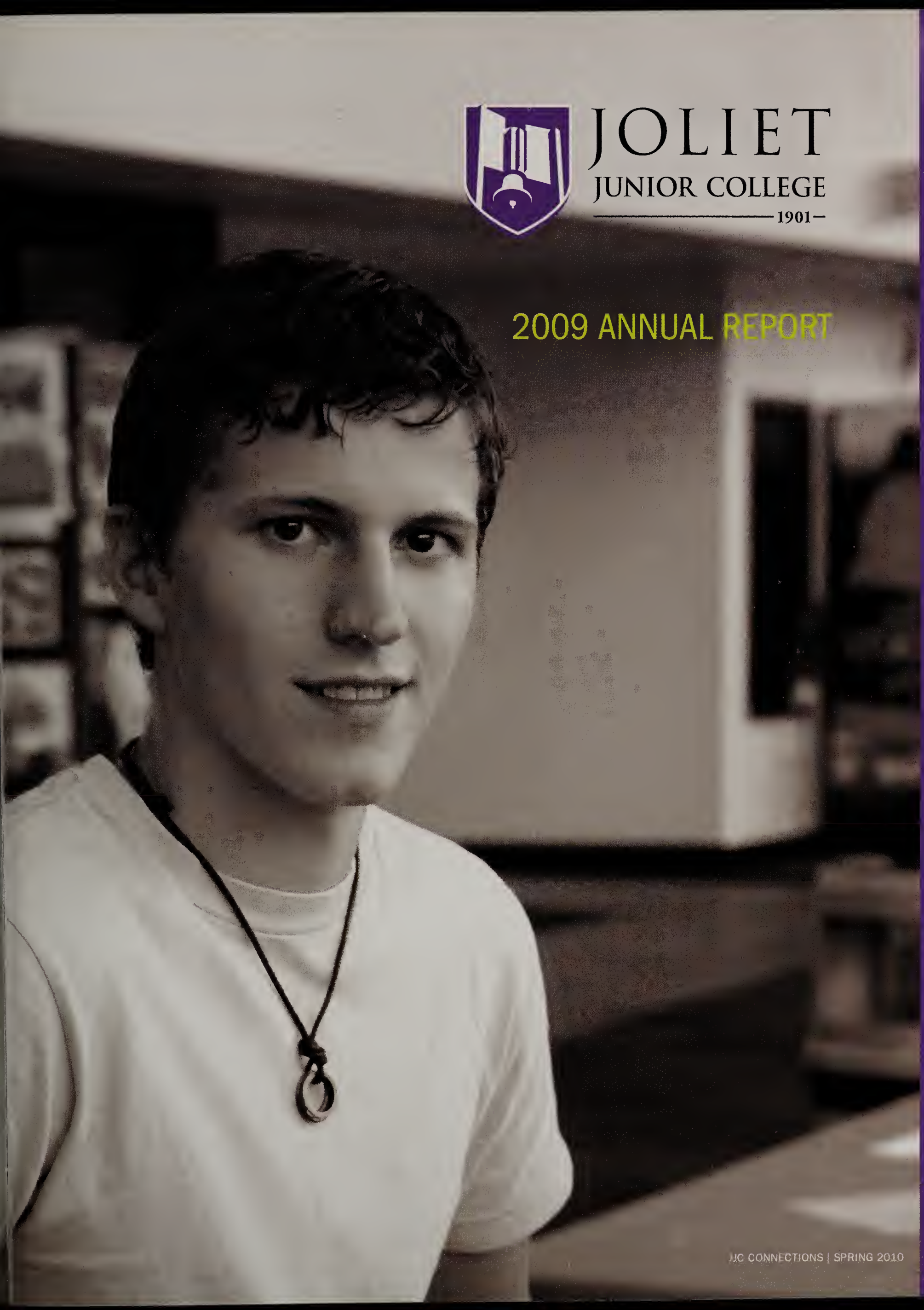
With the skills acquired at JJC, Sheedy has gone from taping mock SNL skits to working along side one of his idols—Jimmy Fallon.

"Not only did I want...a degree," Sheedy said. "JJC also gave me the stepping-stones to where I am now."

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
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2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report





The new greenhouse facility is the first building completed as part of the college's Master Plan construction program.

Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Financial Highlights

- The district's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net assets increased 8.6 percent over the course of the year. New construction in the district has increased the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) by 6.9 percent and property tax revenue by 7.3 percent in fiscal 2009.
- Overall revenues were $112.0 million, $6.2 million more than expenses.
- Total costs increased by approximately 17.7 percent because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, interest expense attributed to the $70 million bond issue, student financial aid passed through the District, and the on-behalf pension contribution from the state of Illinois.
- $70 million in general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source) were issued for funding the student service-based projects of the master plan.
- Enrollment and tuition revenue increased by 20.1 percent.

JJC Financial Fast Facts

- A JJC graduate can expect to earn $900,000 more than a high school graduate over the course of his/her working lifetime.
- JJC's operating expenditures in the district produce over $5 million in output, resulting in a total economic impact of nearly $15 million.
- It is estimated the current Facilities Master Plan will generate 8,000 new jobs in the district through the direct and indirect impacts of construction and the college's ability to produce more graduates.
- The average full-time JJC student can save $13,000 by attending JJC for the first two years of college instead of a four-year public university and nearly $42,000 over a four-year private university.
- JJC awards over $15 million annually in federal, state, and institutional financial aid. Nearly 70 percent of that amount is made in the form of non-repayable grants and tuition waivers.
- Thousands of students receive financial aid based on need every year at JJC. In 2009, JJC awarded over 2,500 federal Pell Grants and nearly 1,800 state MAP grants.
- A renegotiated agreement with MidAmerican Energy Services, resulting in an estimated savings of $113,000 annually at JJC.
- JJC recently received an upgrade in its bond rating from AA to AA+.
- JJC is one of only 14 colleges in the nation to win the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) award.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2009	2008	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$134.5	$57.5	$77.9	135.5%
Capital Assest, Net	47.2	43.6	3.6	8.3%
Total Assets	182.6	101.1	81.5	80.6%
Current Liabilities	26.6	20.2	6.4	31.7%
Long-Term Liabilities	77.9	9.0	68.9	765.6%
Total Liabilities	104.5	29.2	75.3	257.9%
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	34.8	33.1	1.7	5.1%
Restricted	11.1	8.3	2.8	33.7%
Unrestricted	32.2	30.5	1.7	5.6%
Total Net Assets	**$78.1**	**$71.9**	**$6.2**	**8.6%**

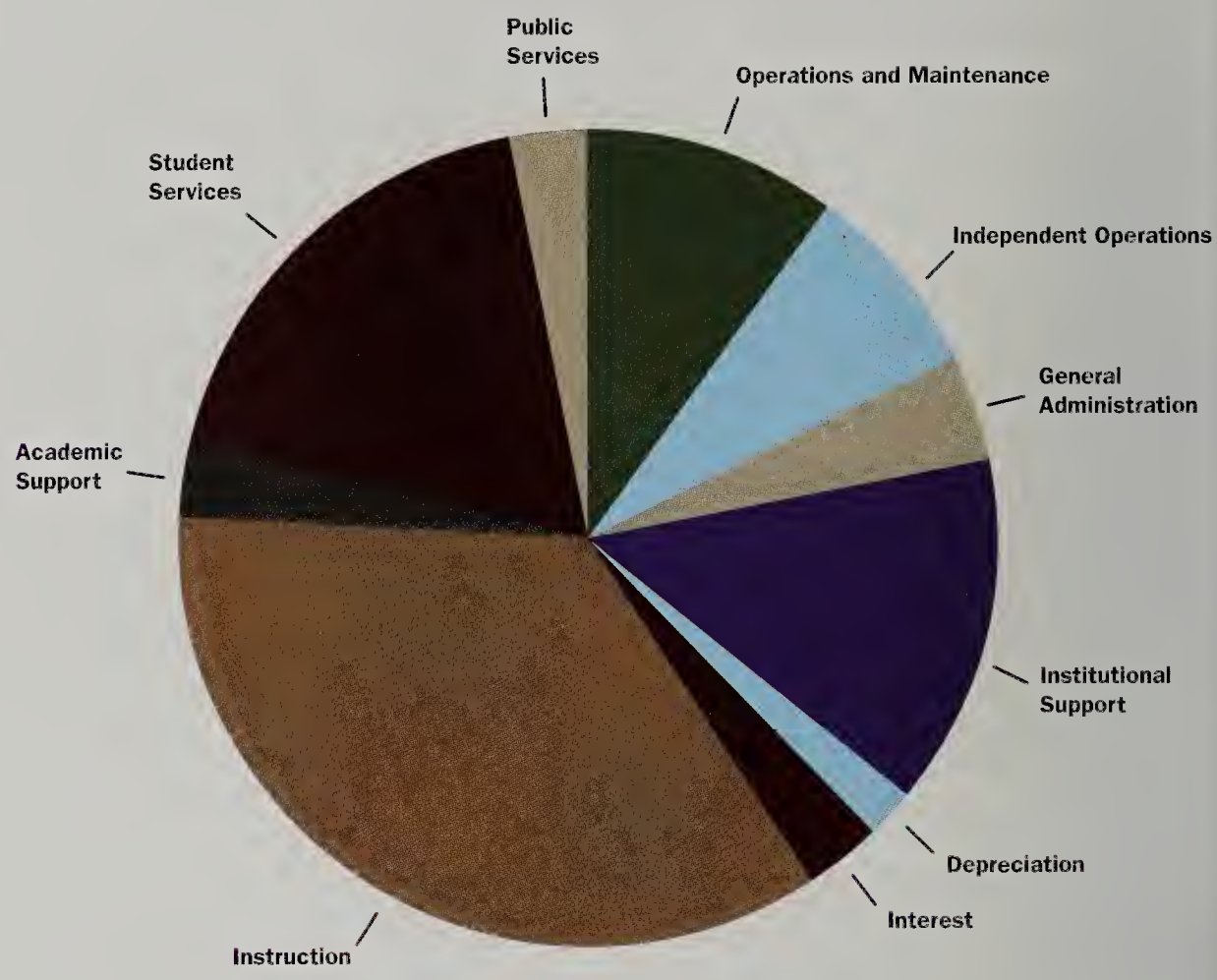
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $105.8 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $61.6 million or 59% of total expenses.

	2009	2008	Increase/Decrease	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$27.5	$22.9	$4.6	20.1%
Sales & Service Fees	7.8	7.5	0.3	4.0%
Miscellaneous	1.9	1.8	0.1	5.6%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	39.9	37.2	2.7	7.3%
State & Federal Sources	30.9	25.0	5.9	23.6%
Other	4.0	6.4	(2.4)	-37.5%
Total Revenues	**$112.0**	**$100.8**	**$11.2**	**11.1%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	37.2	33.8	3.4	10.1%
Academic Support	3.0	2.7	0.3	11.1%
Student Services	18.5	14.6	3.9	26.7%
Public Services	2.9	1.8	1.1	61.1%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	10.7	9.4	1.3	13.8%
Independent Operations	8.6	8.2	0.4	4.9%
General Administration	4.2	3.7	0.5	13.5%
Institutional Support	15.1	12.7	2.4	18.9%
Depreciation	2.6	2.5	0.1	4.0%
Interest	3.0	0.5	2.5	500.0%
Total Expenses	**$105.8**	**$89.9**	**$15.9**	**17.7%**
Increase in Net Assets	**$6.2**	**$10.9**	**$(4.7)**	
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$71.9**	**$61.0**		
End of Year	**$78.1**	**$71.9**		

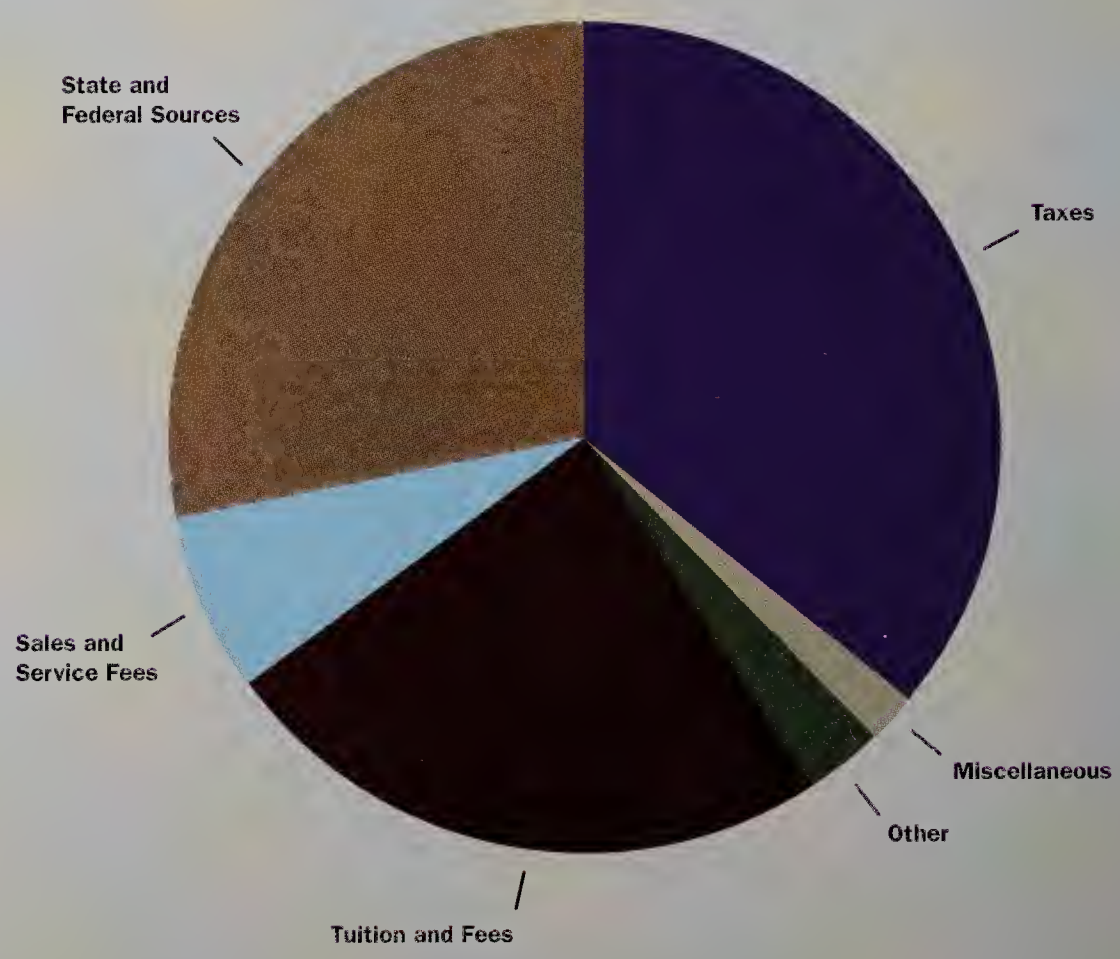
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2009

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	10%
Independent Operations	8%
General Administration	4%
Institutional Support	14%
Depreciation	2%
Interest	3%
Instruction	35%
Academic Support	3%
Student Services	18%
Public Services	3%



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2009

Taxes	36%
Miscellaneous	2%
Other	3%
Tuition and Fees	24%
Sales and Service Fees	7%
State and Federal Sources	28%



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from John Weitendorf, Jr.

Foundation President

Since its founding in 1973, the Joliet Junior College Foundation has been dedicated to the students and faculty of Joliet Junior College. In today's especially tough economic climate, the aid provided by the Foundation—scholarships and grants that fund equipment and programs—truly supports the college's mission to enrich people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services.

On behalf of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors, I want to thank all of the charitable individuals, businesses and organizations that continue to support Joliet Junior College. Last year, we awarded more than $700,000 in scholarships to JJC students. Your kindness and generosity make JJC an attainable resource for the community.

For more information about gift opportunities, contact Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or visit www.jjc.edu/about/foundation.

Sincerely,

John Weitendorf, Jr.
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2009 and 2008]

	2009	2008
Total Current Assets	$12,501,436	$15,273,173
Capital Assets, Net	905	905
Total Assets	12,502,341	15,274, 078
Total Current Liabilities	2,578	57,935
Total Net Assets	12,499,763	15,216,143
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	12,502,341	15,274,078

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2009 and 2008]

	2009	2008
Total Revenues	$(1,697,900)	$1,334,199
Total Expenses	1,018,480	4,583,719
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	15,216,143	19,508,398
End of Fiscal Year	12,499,763	15,216,413
Endowment	9,273,559	8,913,980
Investments	12,081,331	15,084,718
Annual Contributions	780,960	776,624
Scholarships Awarded	712,509	568,283

Fundraising On All Cylinders

Awards for Excellence funds innovative tool for automotive students

by **Ericka Wellner**



Leaning into the driver's side of a Ford Taurus, JJC student Lindsay Doran reaches under the steering column to grab the receiving end of a scan tool. Plugging in what looks like a hand-held computer fit with an electronic screen and digital read, Doran grips the device waiting for the empty screen to scroll with text and codes.

The same tool Doran is using in class is the exact same tool currently being used in repair and diagnostic shops today.

Students like Doran are given the opportunity to learn with updated equipment thanks to grants awarded to the college by the JJC Foundation, better preparing them for careers in the automotive industry.

This past fall, the Foundation awarded the automotive program $5,000 through the Awards for Excellence program, which provides $25,000 biannually in grant money for projects that are not included in the college's budget.

"Updated equipment allows the chance to enhance students' learning opportunities," says Kristin Mulvey, the director of institutional advancement and the executive director of JJC Foundation.

The last couple of decades have seen radical advancements in automotive technology. The once popular gas-guzzling automobiles have been replaced with fuel-efficient hybrids, and vehicles have evolved from being mechanically regulated to being controlled, almost entirely, by computer sensors.

"[The scan tool] was a good investment," says Doran whose part-time job is at an auto shop. "A lot of the shops use these [scan tools]; it makes the transition easier."

Keeping with current technology is crucial in order to stay competitive with the automotive industry, explains Jim Coleman, a full-time auto service professor. With the recent grant the program is able to do so.

"The equipment and technology is on par or better than average [compared with other colleges]," Coleman says about the nationally recognized and certified automotive program.

The automotive program is just one of many that have experienced the benefits of the Awards for Excellence Program. The Plus 50 Workforce Center, a program that offers education and training services for individuals over the age of 50, also received over $5,000 this past fall, which was used to waive over a dozen tuitions for individuals unemployed and to supply new materials.

"The Awards for Excellence program helps us take things off the wish list and put them into the classroom," says Mulvey. "It has advanced student learning."



Upcoming Events at JJC



Mark Your Calendar

for the Joliet Junior College
Alumni Association

29th Annual Alumni Brunch
Sunday, June 13
11 a.m.

Renaissance Center
214 North Ottawa Street
Joliet, Ill. 60431

Cost is $30 per person.

For more information, call (815) 280-2328.

May 1, 2010
2nd Annual JJC 5K Race

May 13, 2010
JJC Honors Recital

May 14, 2010
Spring Commencement

June 21, 2010
20th Annual JJC Foundation Golf Outing

Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for up-to-date information on events.

Help JJC GO GREEN!

The college is committed to being environmentally responsible by reducing consumption of the earth's natural resources, which includes paper.



To help us reach this goal, join our e-mail list and we'll send you the information you need to know electronically without using paper. This magazine, as well as other communications from the college, is available in an electronic format, so help us reduce our impact on the earth by using e-mail. Send your e-mail addresses to kmyers@jjc.edu. JJC and the environment appreciate your consideration!

CULTURE AT JJC!

Every year the Fine Arts department offers a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. With excellent theatre productions, must-see art gallery openings and nationally recognized musical offerings, the college is a cultural destination in the Chicagoland area.



For more information contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

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CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Ramsey Mallory ('90) achieved his goal of becoming an attorney. His success story started at JJC.

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

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ALUMNI RELATIONS

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CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

Practice What You Teach

Professors Bring Passion for Sustainability to the Classroom

Geothermal Energy
- Innovative System Heats & Cools New Buildings on Campus

Greenhouse Facility
- LEED-Registered Building a First

JJC Chefs Participate in White House Healthy Food Initiative

FALL 2010



Joliet Junior College: Building Futures



Record-breaking enrollment

- Enrollment for the spring 2010 semester was up nearly 10 percent over the previous year.
- JJC's growth continued in summer 2010, with a headcount 14.5 percent higher than summer 2009.

Support for students

- JJC expanded in-person tutoring services throughout college locations and made services available year-round, in addition to free online tutoring available 24/7.
- Since the college's online scholarship application system was introduced in the 2008-2009 academic year, there has been a 73 percent increase in the number of students who applied and the number of scholarships awarded. Each year more than $700,000 in scholarships is available to students.

Academic excellence

- JJC's Culinary Arts Hot Foods Team won the silver medal at the American Culinary Federation's national competition in August.
- Increased pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses. Between April 2009 and March 2010, 93 percent of nursing graduates passed the exam, compared to 88 percent of all nursing graduates in Illinois and 89 percent in the U.S.

Facilities improvements

- JJC renovated furniture, flooring, ceilings, energy-efficient lighting, window treatments and technology in 114 classrooms with the goal of increasing student retention.
- The college began the project of expanding the City Center Campus in downtown Joliet, which will house the college's nationally renowned culinary arts and hospitality programs as well as workforce development, GED/ESL training and adult education programs.

Success in athletics

- JJC's men's basketball team claimed the NJCAA Division III National Championship in March 2010.
- The National Junior College Athletics Association announced in September 2010 that the 2002 Joliet Junior College football team will be inducted into its Football Hall of Fame.

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To learn more about JJC, visit www.jjc.edu or call (815) 729-9020.

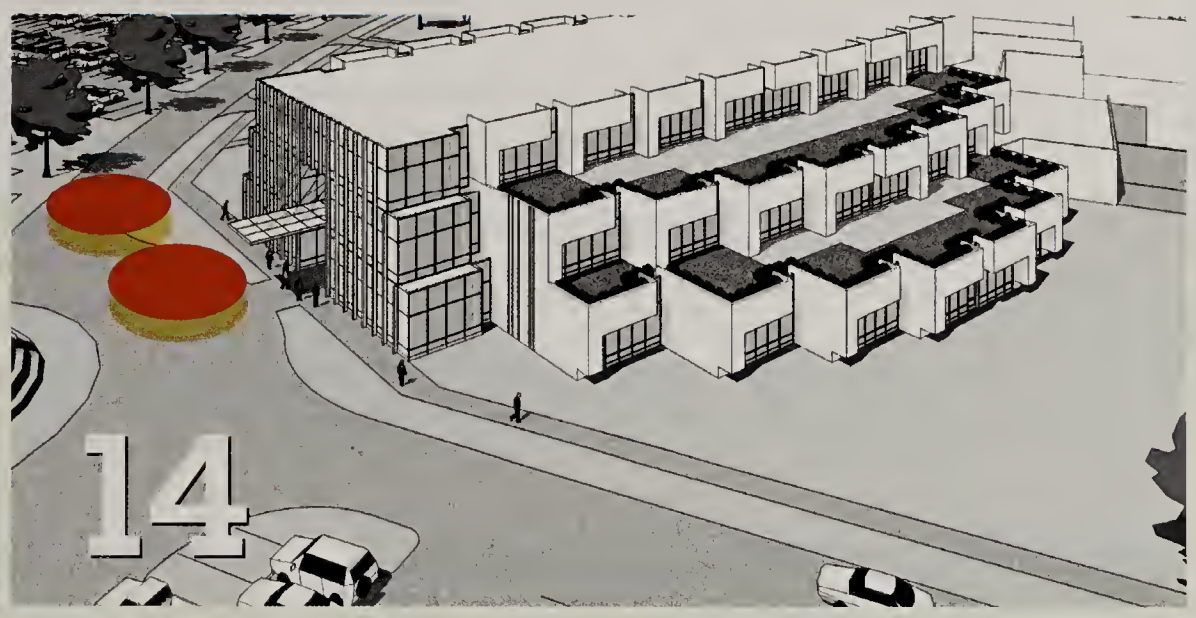
CONNECTIONS

CONTENTS



Practice What You Teach

While sustainability initiatives take center stage in new buildings on campus, JJC professors ensure that green thinking reaches students in the classroom.



The Secret to Temperature is Right Beneath Your Feet

Learn how geothermal energy systems will change the way the college heats and cools buildings on Main Campus.



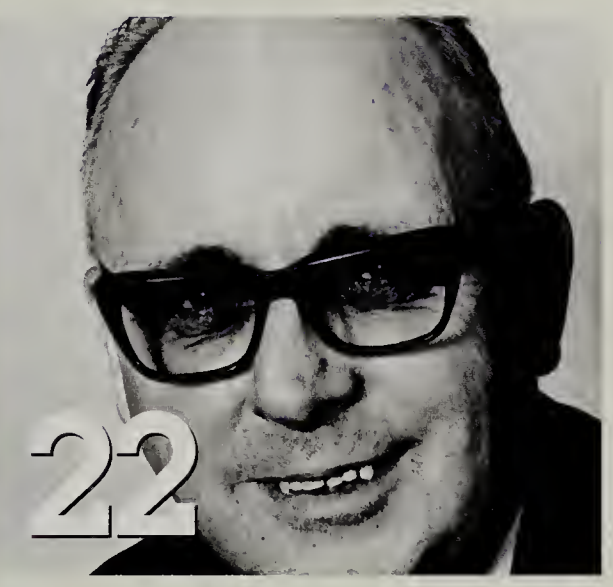
Green House Facility Opening Marks Master Plan Milestone

JJC celebrates the opening of the LEED-registered Greenhouse Facility, the first of its kind in Illinois and at a community college.



Making Healthier Choices in the Nation's Lunchrooms

Chefs Kyle Richardson and Michael McGreal attended the summer launch of The Chefs Move to Schools, Michelle Obama's initiative to help combat the nation's childhood obesity epidemic.



Leading By Example

Elmer Rowley was not just JJC's first president—he was a tireless advocate for higher education whose work helped shape the future of community colleges in Illinois.

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06 Q&A with Zak Cottrell

27 Alumni Notes

CONNECTIONS

If you walk on a green roof in shoes with soles made of post-consumer recycled rubber tires, would you leave carbon footprints?

To me, that's the challenge of the new era of sustainability—making sure your efforts amount to more than just a jumble of buzzwords used to create positive PR for your organization.

Thankfully, Joliet Junior College has a long history of conservation and sustainable programs, which serve as the foundation for JJC's recent commitments to greening the college. And while the rainwater harvesting system in the new LEED-registered greenhouse facility is impressive, what's even more remarkable is the work of professors like John Koepke, Roxanne Munch, Maria Anna Rafac, and Bill Yarrow, who are working to incorporate elements of sustainability into their courses.

It's efforts like theirs that will help ensure that today's students recall the current green revolution as more than just a media fad, but as an important part of their education and their future.

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine will serve as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Correction: On pg. 24 of the spring 2010 issue, the college's bond rating was incorrectly listed as AA+. The college's bond rating is AA.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

This really has been a great year for alumni relations and the JJC Alumni Association. Alumni giving has significantly increased over the past several years. In FY 2008, our alumni gave the college 920 gifts totaling $83,899. In FY 2010, our alumni gave 1,158 gifts totaling $138,555.

The Alumni Association has three endowed scholarships that benefit our students: the Susan H. Wood Scholarship, which assists a JJC grad (giving consideration to those who will attend the University of Illinois); the Paul K. and Catherine M. Orosco Alumni Endowed Scholarship, which is for graduates of Lincoln-Way High School who will attend JJC; and the newest endowed scholarship, the Joliet Junior College Alumni Endowed Scholarship, which benefits children of JJC alums who will attend JJC.*

JJC is growing in ways we never imagined: more students, new buildings and increased educational opportunities for our district. Yet it is the people who make our community college great—people like Marge Parks '39. Recently, Marge wrote me a letter telling me how much she cherished her alma mater. Marge was an education major who was immediately hired upon graduation from JJC. She taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Wilmington, Ill., (teaching all eight grades) and earning $80 a month for nine months out of the year. After JJC, Marge earned her bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University and was an elementary school teacher for 18 years in Plainfield District 202.

At the Annual Alumni Brunch (held in June 2010), Marge had the opportunity to reconnect with her former grade school student, Roxanne Munch, who is now a professor and chair of the English and World Languages Department at JJC. Both Marge and Roxanne support the college in meaningful ways. Marge is a terrific advocate, and as she states in her letter, "I would recommend Joliet Junior College to anyone able to attend. One can get a great education for a reasonable tuition and still live at home." Roxanne is a wonderfully supportive faculty member who appreciates the connections that JJC offers her and each of her students.



Marge Parks and Roxanne Munch.

This issue of *Connections* will discuss the ways that JJC continues to embrace sustainability. The definition of sustain is, "to support or hold." This is what our alumni and friends do: sustain us. I hope you will take a moment to sustain your relationship with JJC by visiting www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect to update your information, share what is going on in your life and consider the ways that JJC has supported you as you have progressed in life.

Sincerely,

Kelly Myers
Assistant Director of Institutional
Advancement and Alumni Relations

Update your personal alumni information at **www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect.**

* Please note that April 1 is the deadline to apply for these scholarships for 2011. You can apply online at www.jjc.edu/info/scholarships.

News Briefs



Grainger provides Westward toolkits to JJC students as part of a scholarship program.

Grainger Continues to Support JJC Students Through Tools for Tomorrow

Since 2007, the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship program has supported JJC students with scholarships and Westward toolkits.

The program assists full-time, second-year students enrolled in a technical program pursuing an associate degree or licensed certification in heating/air conditioning, plumbing, welding, automotive, construction, or other industrial trade.

In this time, W. W. Grainger Inc. has granted several $2,000 scholarships to JJC students for tuition and books, which in a struggling economy has been critical, explained Kristin Mulvey, director of institutional advancement and the executive director of the JJC Foundation.

"It is important for students to receive help with their education with the current economy," Mulvey said.

"Not only is it good to receive the financial assistance, but the Westward toolkit is an advantage to enter the field with."

Along with receiving the initial $2,000 in scholarship funds, students receive a 396-piece master set of tools, valued at approximately $1,500, which is customized to the student's area of expertise.

"Our vision is to create an environment that makes the training and advancement of the skilled trades a priority and helps prepare students for exciting long-term careers," Laura Coy, public affairs manager for Grainger, said.

Grainger has also recently donated $10,000 worth of equipment to the college's Technical Department.

"Grainger has been an asset to JJC," Mulvey said. "The donations helped both the individual student and the Technical Department by enhancing equipment."

Brick Pavers in Centennial Plaza to be Relocated

The brick pavers in Centennial Plaza will be relocated to a more prominent location in front of the new Campus Center to accommodate the renovation and expansion of the buildings that border the plaza.

Since 2000, the plaza has been home to thousands of brick pavers, which have been purchased by alumni, donors and friends of the college to commemorate friends and family members.

Brick pavers are still available for purchase; for more information, contact the JJC Foundation Office at (815) 280-2514.



Brick pavers can be purchased to commemorate friends and family members.



(Left to right) Molly Meehan, James Bingham, Matt Cappellini, Lindsey Ciszewski, and Lauren Mulvey.

JJC Student Team Earns Silver Medal at National Culinary Competition

The Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts hot foods team won the silver medal at the American Culinary Federation's national competition Aug. 5 in Anaheim, California.

The five-member student team competed against teams from California, New York and Savannah, Ga., ultimately losing—by a mere 1.7 points—to the State University of New York at Delhi.

In the months leading up to the competition, the team practiced multiple times a week, working to perfect its four-course meal of seafood appetizers, a lamb entrée, salad and white chocolate mousse terrine. According to competition guidelines, the entire meal needed to be cooked and plated for 24 people in under three hours and 20 minutes.

In March, the team won its first ACF central region competition, which ultimately qualified the team members for their first-ever appearance at the national contest.

The JJC hot foods team is coached by Chefs Tim Bucci and Kyle Richardson, and includes Matt Cappellini, Lindsey Ciszewski, Lauren Mulvey, James Bingham, and Molly Meehan.

To see more photos of the hot foods team, visit www.flickr.com/photos/jolietjuniorcollege/sets/72157624559161808.

Men's Basketball Team Wins National Championship

This past spring, the JJC men's basketball team clinched the NJCAA Division III National Championship, its first since 1994. The Wolves won the title on March 13 with a 94-82 victory over Minnesota's Rochester Community and Technical College in a tournament held at the State University of New York in Delhi, N.Y.

"This team is so unselfish from the opening tip to the end of a game," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said. "Throughout the course of the year, we've had different players step up and get the job done. This is not a one-player team."

Kuhn has compiled a 293-137 coaching record at JJC for the last 13 seasons. He received the NJCAA Division III Coach of the Year award, Region IV Coach of the Year, and N4C Conference Coach of the Year accolades this season.

"We kept telling our players to do what we asked and something good will happen for us," Kuhn said. "That's exactly what happened in the championship game. The guys listened all year, kept plugging away and the results were positive."

Brian Bradley received NJCAA Division III tournament MVP, while Jon Bartlett also landed a spot on the all-tournament team.

The Wolves finished the season with a 30-5 overall record and a 11-3 N4C conference record. Their 30-win season ties the school record for wins with the 2004-05 team's 30-5 record.



NJCAA Division III National Champions: JJC Men's Basketball Team

Zak Cottrell

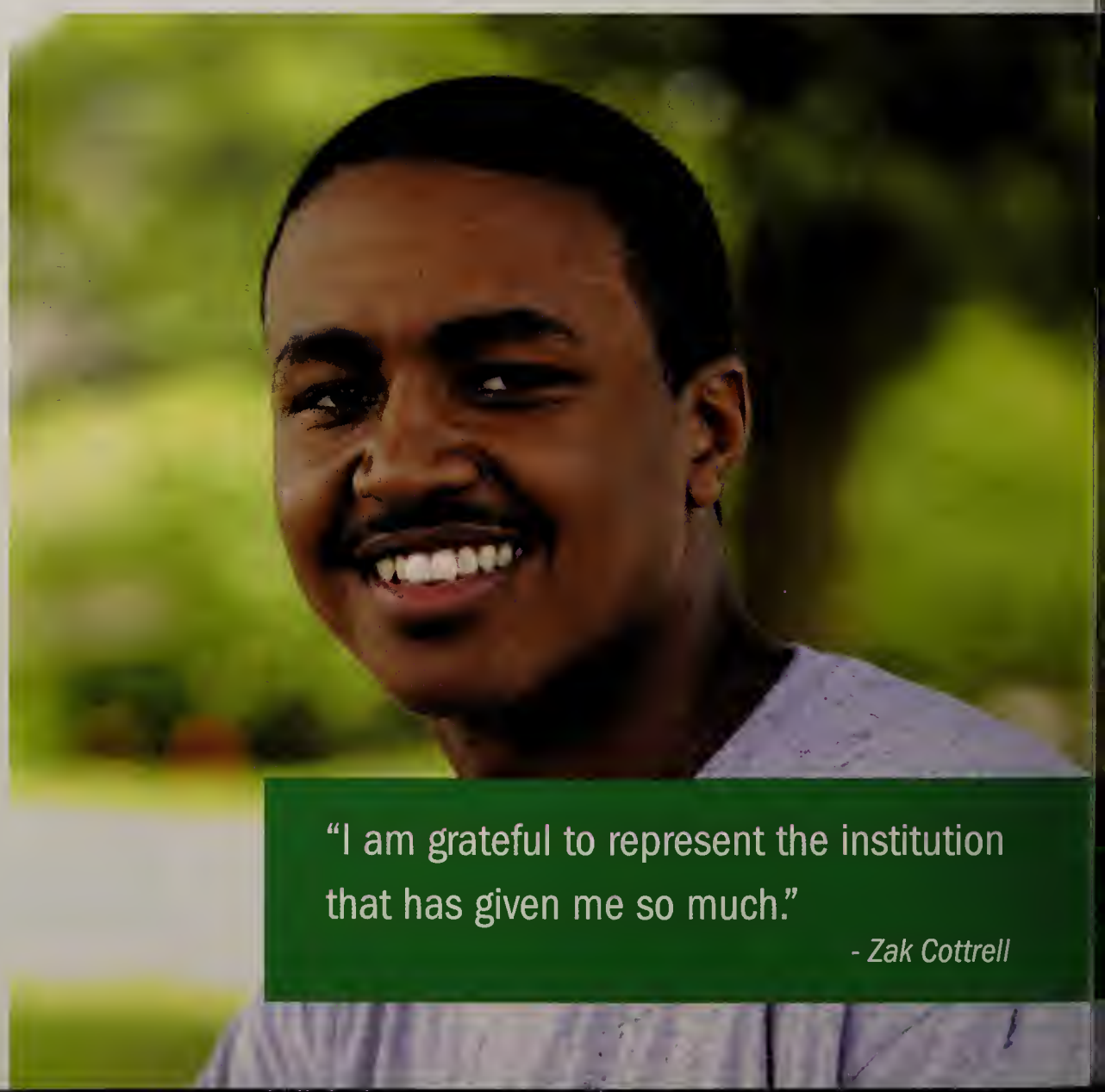
JJC Student Trustee Zak Cottrell admits if it weren't for his grandfather's motivation, college would not have been an option for him.

After struggling to graduate from Joliet West High School, Cottrell enrolled at JJC. In January of 2009, he came to the college with an undecided major and little else than the desire to fulfill his grandfather's wishes. However, less than a year later, Cottrell is earning an Associate of Arts degree, studying pre-med and in April 2010 was appointed student trustee.

Why did you choose JJC?
After graduating high school, enrolling in college was the next step—that's what everyone does. When I came to JJC, I didn't have a major decided. I didn't have any direction. My grandfather had always told me to continue my education, even if I was unsure about what I wanted to do. Then down the road, my dad suggested I study nursing, so I joined the program. After two semesters, my instructors recommended I study pre-med. I thought, I might as well go for the big cookie. In high school, I failed biology and chemistry. I felt like a failure. But the instructors here are so passionate—it radiates. They made me want to learn. As much as I was putting into learning, they were giving back.

Is there an instructor or faculty member that has helped lead you to the path you're on?
Kathy Holden from the Financial Aid Office changed my life. After high school, it took me six months to finally enroll at JJC because I had such a difficult time figuring out the financial aid forms. She was patient and worked with me until I completed the process. My college career started with Kathy. If it weren't for her, I would probably be on the couch watching TV.

What do you hope to accomplish as the student trustee?
My main goal is let the students know the college has a student trustee. I hope to be able to give a voice to the students and hopefully have their needs met. I think of myself as the link between students and the Board of Trustees. It feels great to be a part of a school that has given me so much. When I enrolled, I didn't know what direction I was heading in and the college has given me that. I am grateful to represent the institution that has given me so much.



"I am grateful to represent the institution that has given me so much."
- Zak Cottrell



JJC ATHLETIC TEAMS GET A NEW LOOK

by **Rachel Rose**

Championship teams deserve an identity that reflects their determination, hard work, and their success – and now the JJC Wolves have just that. In June 2010, the college unveiled its new athletic identity that features the name of the team and a new rendering of the college's mascot, the wolf.

"We are really excited about this new look for us in athletics," said Wayne King, director of athletics and head baseball coach. "It will bring a consistent look to all of our programs."

The new identity for the teams was created through a collaborative effort between the Athletic Department and the Marketing and Creative Services Office. Graphic designer and JJC alumnus Shawn McGuan, who also created the college's official logo, designed the athletic logo.

"The new logo will provide us with a stronger identity and also aid us in improving the marketing of our athletic teams to the school and the community," said Emily Marino, women's athletic coordinator.

The Wolves' logo can be seen on the repainted gymnasium floor on Main Campus and will appear on athletic teams' uniforms as new ones are purchased. JJC sports fans will soon be able to purchase apparel such as t-shirts, polo shirts and hats with the new Wolves identity at www.jjc.edu/info/athletics.

Practice What You Teach

Professors Bring Passion for Sustainability to the Classroom

by **Rachel Rose**



For JJC professor Maria Anna Rafac, "reduce, reuse, recycle" is much more than a bumper sticker slogan or a trendy cause to promote: it's a way of life she's fully committed to, both personally and professionally.

On an average day at JJC, the architecture, engineering and construction instructor is likely to be seen loading plastic bags or piles of cardboard into her vehicle, which she personally takes to a recycling facility because JJC does not currently have the resources to recycle these products.

Or she might be overseeing a meeting of the JJC Sustainability Initiative Committee, of which she is co-chair. Or she could be busy planning GR2011, an annual community event she helps organize in Joliet to raise awareness and enthusiasm for sustainable products and practices.

But of all the sustainability efforts she is involved in, what is perhaps the most important to Rafac, who is also a registered architect, is her commitment to teaching sustainable practices and ideas in her classes at JJC.

"I believe that if we are truly going to change the wasteful practices that are having a devastating impact on the environment, we have to start by reaching the next generation," Rafac said. "I try to instill in my students that it's about the small choices they make, such as the choice to use a reusable water bottle instead of plastic disposable ones."

She collects cardboard boxes from other college offices for her students to use for architectural models, and she teaches students about sustainable concepts in architecture.

Rafac noted that the architecture industry has traditionally focused on the universal design, or "all people" concept, which means that buildings should be designed to be accessible to all individuals. Now, she said, the industry is also focused on consideration for "all things": in other words, the practice of reducing waste and consumption in the construction process and in the functions of the building.

Rafac is one of several JJC professors who take modeling sustainability in the classroom seriously. Along with other professors like Bill Yarrow and Roxanne Munch in the English and World Languages Department and John Koepke in the Technical Department, she is committed to using no paper in the classroom. These professors post all class assignments and notes on the college's online course management system, and require that students submit all work and tests online.

Munch, who is also chair of the English and World Languages Department, is hoping that paperless classrooms will one day be the norm at JJC.

"I have become essentially paperless in the classroom except for textbooks, and I am trying to reduce the number and costs of textbooks for my own courses and for our adjuncts," she said. "I have also set a goal this year that our adjuncts will be fully functional on Angel [JJC's online course management system] by fall 2011 in our efforts to be paperless. Our department has been aggressive overall in becoming paperless, minimizing photocopying and using Angel and electronic media for instruction."

John Koepke, who teaches automated systems (EEAS) and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) at JJC, says that energy management and conservation has been a driving force in many industries since the '70s and '80s, largely because many sustainable practices that conserve energy also come with cost savings for businesses.



"The importance of conserving energy while improving safety is typically ingrained in most engineers. These concepts are an integral part of sustainability," said Koepke, who has taught at JJC for more than 10 years.

Koepke exemplifies sustainable practices in his classes by using an online lecture format instead of using paper, and encourages students to use the recycling receptacles instead of the garbage can. In his courses, he teaches students about the implementation of automated building control systems called DDCs, or Direct Digital Controls, to monitor building systems and employ energy conservation methods.

As an institution, JJC takes its commitment to environmental stewardship seriously. In 2009, JJC President Gena Proulx signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment and the Illinois Sustainable University Compact, which include commitments to measures that will lead to climate neutrality, such as purchasing efficient appliances and using renewable energy sources.

To date, the college has met several of the stipulations in the agreements by pledging to meet LEED certification in new construction (JJC actually committed to seeking LEED-silver status), reducing water usage by 15 percent, completing one storm water management project, increasing amount of waste recycled by 15 percent, and reducing pesticide use.

In addition, the college's renewable energy resource training program, offered through the Corporate and Community Services area, was highlighted in an April 2010 article in the Wall Street Journal. The program teaches the fundamentals of basic electrical, variable frequency drives, power quality, wind turbines, and installing photovoltaic systems, and was created in response to a shortage of trained and qualified wind energy technicians, or windsmiths, who provide maintenance on the turbines.

But for the JJC professors working to make changes on a day-to-day basis, they find that setting an example in their own practices is one of the best ways they can have an impact on students.

Munch says that she routinely points out the recycling containers on campus, and urges students to use them.

"Besides my instructional practices, I am working to eliminate Styrofoam cups and containers in our department," she added. "I always use a travel mug or traditional coffee mug, and I encourage students to think in those terms. I also use fountain water in a glass rather than bottled water, unless I have no other choice. I hand rinse my own containers daily."

Munch pointed out that one of the challenges in getting students to alter their habits is that the average college student has grown up surrounded by disposal products.

"For students, going paperless is both more environmentally sound

It's not just a passing fad: JJC has a history of going green.

- **A 2009 waste audit found that JJC has surpassed its goal of reducing waste per student by 40 percent; since 1987, the college has decreased waste per student by 63.38 percent.**
- **The college has had a paper recycling program since 1991.**
- **A sustainability committee has been educating the JJC community and promoting best practices throughout the college since 2007.**
- **JJC recycles an average of 64 ink cartridges per month.**
- **There are up to three times more recycling containers than trash containers in office areas throughout the college.**
- **JJC has been recycling wood landscape waste since 1990.**
- **Oil and antifreeze used by Facility Services and the Automotive Service Technology Department is either stored and recycled or reclaimed by the automotive shop for use.**
- **JJC composts grass clippings, leaves and other vegetative waste, and also recycles trimmings from trees and shrubs for use in plant beds on college grounds.**

Rafac is also optimistic that while change can be a slow process, it can and does happen when individuals take action and get involved.

and important for building skills with technology. I truly think this generation of students is much more environmentally aware than previous generations, but, while they get recycling, not littering, and protecting nature, they do not understand reusing. They have been brought up on disposable containers, plastic toys and fast food. But I do think students understand what we are asking when we talk about paperless classrooms, recycling, and saving the environment."

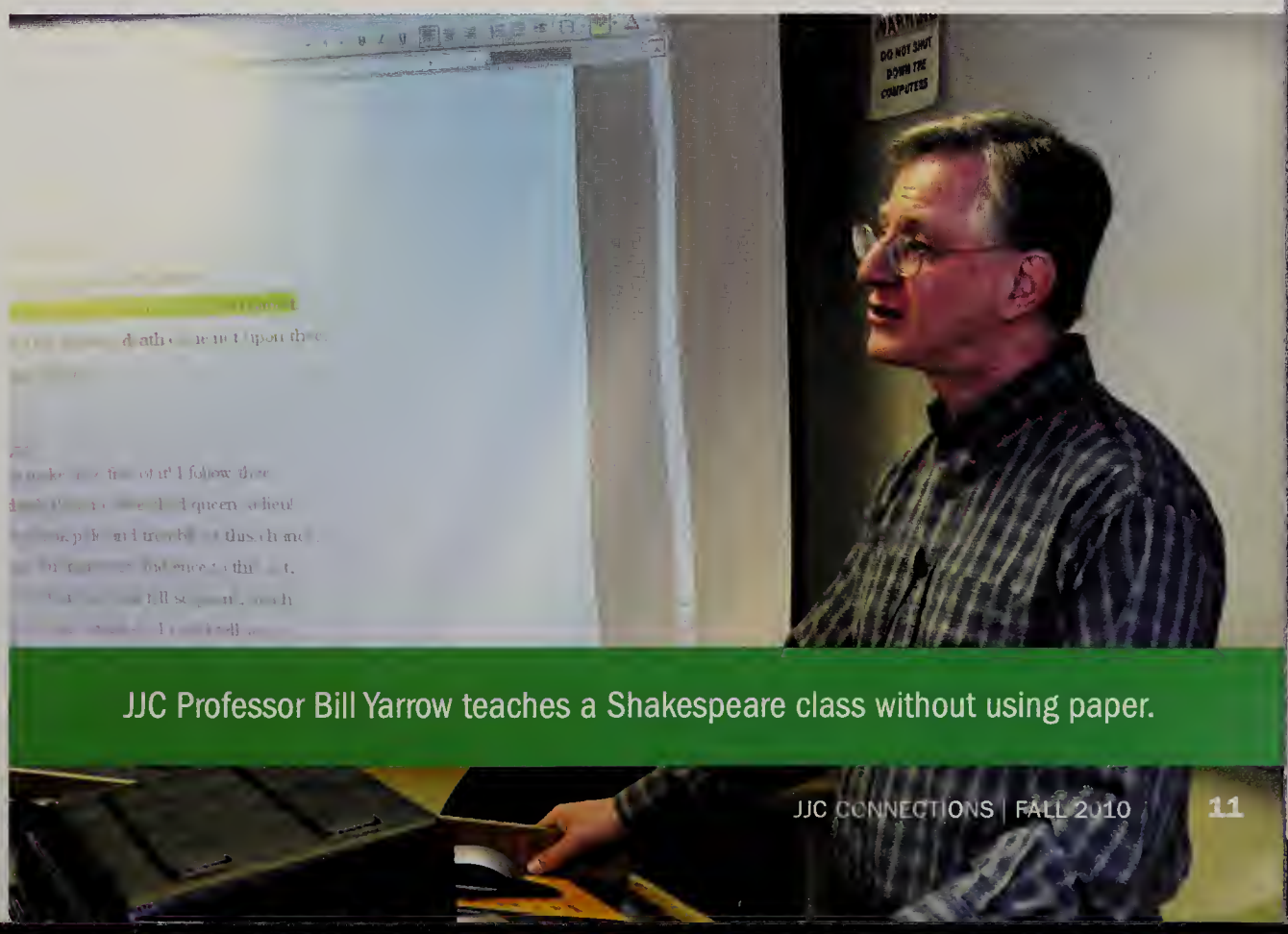
Rafac is also optimistic that while change can be a slow process, it can and does happen when individuals take action and get involved. She is part of a number of green initiatives in the Joliet area, including a community garden and an event that promotes local green job opportunities.

She also makes it a priority to teach sustainable practices to the members of the next generation that she will likely impact the most–her children.

"I'm trying to raise my kids green and help my family continually change our lifestyle to be more and more sustainable," she said.

She recalled a recent story that demonstrates her passion and commitment to sustainability.

"We were with friends and my young daughter was offered a disposable plastic water bottle," Rafac said. "And she turned to me immediately with this almost guilty look, because she knows our family doesn't use plastic bottles. I was just so proud to see her recognize that was not the best choice to make."



JJC Professor Bill Yarrow teaches a Shakespeare class without using paper.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

greenhouse

FACILITY OPENING MARKS MASTER PLAN MILESTONE

by **Rachel Rose**



With several projects underway or yet to begin in JJC's Master Plan, the opening of the Greenhouse Facility in April 2010 was a significant milestone for the college.

Not only is it the first completed Master Plan project, it is the first LEED-registered** greenhouse in Illinois and at a community college in the country.

"JJC is one of only two colleges within the U.S. to meet this level of green building benchmarks, and the only community college," said Jim Ethridge, horticulture professor. "This is an indication of JJC's commitment to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide that we emit into the environment."

"The collection and use of rain water, the change in how we heat and cool the facility, the use of recycled materials and lighting levels sets a standard for how future greenhouses should and must be operated," he added.

Students, staff, faculty, community members, architects, and construction company representatives gathered to celebrate and tour the building, which consists of a multi-purpose classroom and three greenhouses totaling nearly 9,000 square feet. In addition to featuring several resource-conserving systems, the building was also constructed following strict environmentally-conscious standards.

A formal garden located between the east side of the building and Houbolt Road is nearly complete, and features nine separate gardens with unique themes. A five-acre display garden west of the greenhouse is planned and will feature woody trees and shrubs. Both gardens will serve as learning laboratories for JJC students.

Describing the greenhouse design, Jason Lembke, of Legat Architects, said that with the goal of LEED certification, the greenhouse design could be summarized by just two words: innovation and communication.

"Innovation was both an opportunity and a challenge for the team," he said. "We examined opportunities for sustainability through conservation of water, the largest consumable, as well as ways to optimize the building automation systems and greenhouse computer controls. As I reflect back, I am proud of the final building and respect the process we navigated to arrive there."











Sustainable features of the **Greenhouse Facility**

1 Mechanically ventilated roofs regulate the temperature in the greenhouses without the use of electricity.

- Recycled steel and cement and FSC-certified* wood were used to construct the building.
- All building materials come from within 500 miles of the site location.

2 A high-tech irrigation system eliminates wasted water.

- Ebb and flow benches allow plants to absorb water as needed, and then collect excess water to store for later use.
- The greenhouses were designed to use 40 percent less water and be 14 percent more energy efficient than a conventionally designed building, according to the standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- VAST paving materials (produced from recycled plastics) are being used for the sidewalks in the new formal garden; they are LEED** certified.

3 Excess heat is redistributed from the classroom and office areas to the greenhouses, conserving energy usage.

- A heat-reflective roof surface reduces the heat-island effect of the building and reduces cooling loads.
- Seventy-five percent of construction waste from the building was diverted from landfill disposal.
- The facility is monitored by a state-of-the-art Priva computer system that processes environmental data and adjusts a climate control system.

4 Nearly 100 percent of the occupied square footage has a direct exterior view, maximizing the use of natural light and reducing usage of electricity.

- Water-efficient plumbing fixtures, energy-efficient mechanical systems and lighting conserve resources with new technology.

5 Rainwater is collected through a sophisticated harvesting system and used for plant irrigation.

- Biodegradable containers are replacing non-biodegradable ones previously used in the greenhouse.

*__FSC__ stands for Forest Stewardship Council, a non-profit organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests.

**__LEED__ stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations.

The Secret to Temperature is Right Beneath Your Feet

Geothermal Energy System to Heat and Cool New Buildings at JJC

by **Kelly Rohder**



For the last year, the college's new Campus Center has been seen mostly through computer-generated renderings or more recently, the erection of steel girders and concrete to shape the terraced, three-story structure.

Less visible, however, is the winding, 90,000 feet of pipe in the ground adjacent to the building that makes up its geothermal energy system, which will ultimately use ground temperature, rather than air temperature, to help heat or cool the building.

Built on the site of the old greenhouses between the A- and C-Buildings, the 115,000-square-foot Campus Center will be considered the new front door of the Main Campus. Its geothermal system is one of five similar installations that Legat Architects, JJC's lead architecture firm on the Master Plan, has assisted in developing in the area. Others include Colin Powell Middle School in Matteson, Bicentennial Elementary School in Coal Valley, and Moraine Valley Community College's Southwest Education Center in Tinley Park.

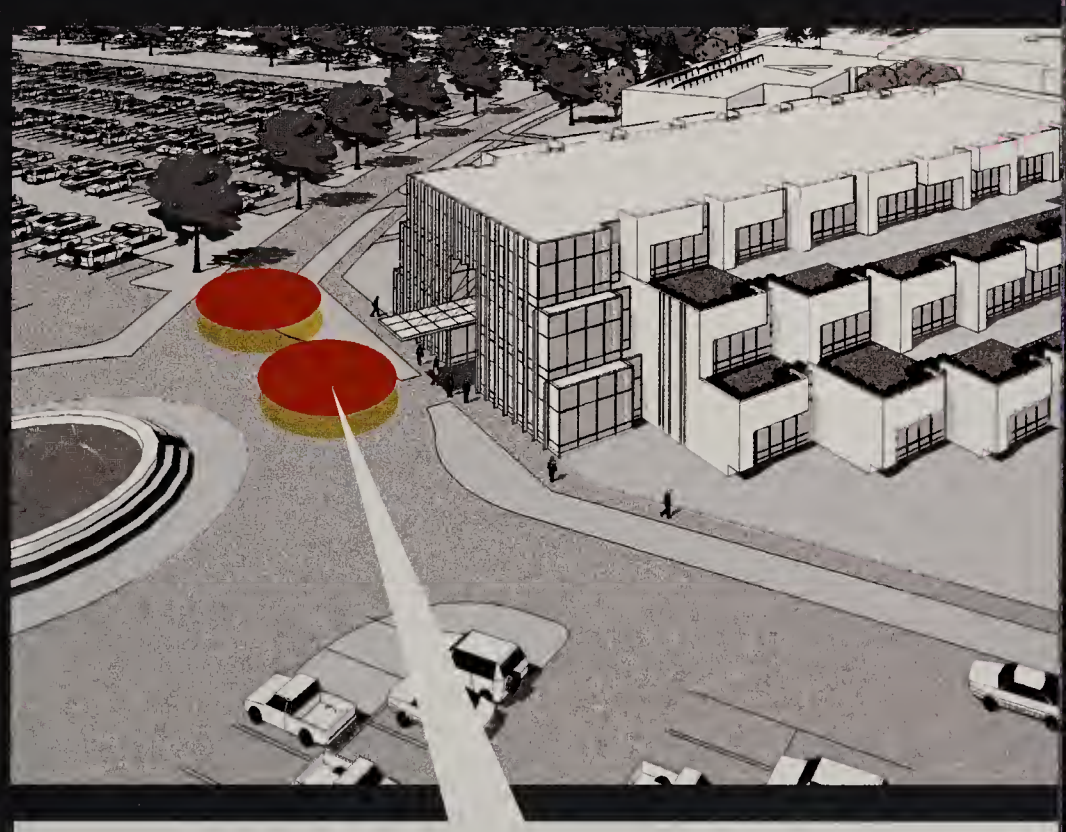
"Geothermal systems are very efficient and help reduce future building operational costs. If designed properly, they can be 20 to 40 percent more energy efficient than conventional boiler/chiller-based systems, and they are less costly to maintain," Vuk Vujovic, LEED AP, director of sustainable design at Legat Architects, said. "Also, geothermal systems use electric power and as such help reduce fossil fuel use, which translates into fewer carbon emissions and a smaller carbon footprint."

There are multiple variations of geothermal systems; the Campus Center will utilize a ground-coupled, vertical system. This means that the piping is buried underground in a vertical format. According to Vujovic, the pipes installed in the ground are generally guaranteed to last 40 to 50 years.

The college began preparatory installation work in March by drilling 84 wells, each at 500 feet deep. The wells, at only eight inches wide, connect the vertical underground piping to form a closed loop that continuously pumps an anti-freeze solution through the pipes and back into the building.

The virtually unchanging ground temperatures—Vujovic said that at about six feet below the surface, most soil and groundwater maintains a constant temperature of 45 to 55 degrees— are what help control the air temperature inside the building, acting as a heat source in the winter and as a heat sink in the summer.

In other terms, in the winter, the liquid circulating through the piping is warmed by the natural heat of the earth and



"Geothermal systems...if designed properly, can be **20 to 40 percent more energy efficient** than conventional boiler/chiller-based systems, and they are less costly to maintain."

- Vuk Vujovic, Legat Architects

then pushed through decentralized heat pumps to help keep the building warm.

In the summer, the liquid circulating is cooled by the underground temperature, absorbing the heat and cooling the liquid. Cooled fluid is then circulated back up into the building through the decentralized pumps to cool the air temperature.

In addition to the geothermal system that will power the Campus Center, the new Facility Services Building next to the J-Building will also run on geothermal energy, as well as the future Health Professions Building adjacent to the T-Building.

While geothermal technology may seem like a relatively new concept, the U.S. Department of Energy lists various uses dating back 10,000 years, when the most rudimentary incarnations were of Paleo-Indians using hot springs to bathe or to cook. More modern systems began to take shape in the late 1940s and into the 1960s, when, in 1960, the country's first large-scale geothermal plant opened in The Geysers in northern California.

Though the cost to install a geothermal system is often higher than an HVAC system, JJC received grant money to offset these costs in both the Campus Center and Facility Services Building—a $40,000 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Thermal Efficiency Program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development for Facility Services; and a $90,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to install the system in the Campus Center.

"We wanted to reduce our carbon footprint and meet our energy needs, and this was a feasible way to do it," Pat Van Duyne, JJC director of facility services, said. "Being sustainable is important—and utilizing these systems is really about doing the right thing for the environment and conserving our nation's resources."

The Campus Center is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2011.

Hot air is cooled by the lower ground temperature in the summer.

84 wells each 500 feet deep will use virtually unchanging ground temperatures to heat the campus in winter and cool it in the summer.



Geothermal heat raises water temperature delivering it to the surface.



This photo, taken in March 2010, shows wells being drilled in front of the Campus Center.



LITTLE COLLEGE ON THE PRAIRIE

Restoration project brings original landscape back to JJC

by Kelly Rohder

The bucolic, natural areas that have provided the backdrop for the JJC Main Campus for four decades have grown into something quite unnatural, according to Andy Neill, a professor in the college's Natural Sciences Department.

The dense, woody brush that has shrouded much of the campus acreage is in the midst of a transformation that will return 65 acres to their original, pre-1820s wilderness of tallgrass prairie and forest.

"Like the Master Plan, the ecological restoration project is one of campus renewal after decades of neglect," Neill said. "While the initial clearing is shocking, it will be restored to a much higher quality native plant community that will be absolutely knock-out gorgeous once it starts to become established in three to five years."

The restoration project, which began in January 2010, received approval at the December 2009 Board of Trustees meeting. The first leg of the project used cutting and controlled burns to clear the non-native buckthorn and Hawthorne trees that had, over time, started to choke out native prairie plants and grasses. The total restoration process could take up to seven years by the time areas are cleared and native species are introduced and begin to take over.

"In time, controlled burns will be all that is required to maintain the native plant community," Neill said. "This is a time-consuming process, and the native species will need time to establish themselves. The added benefit is that during the process, this project can be used as an educational tool allowing students to observe the restoration process."

For Neill, the areas involved in the restoration have indeed become an outdoor teaching and learning laboratory. In April, he took his Plants and Society class to conduct field research in a recently cleared section. There, students collected vegetation data by identifying and tallying plants located within a sampling hoop to measure the effectiveness that restoration efforts are having on the natural areas.

"In all the classes I teach, I make an effort to illustrate to students the way ecologists study and measure the health and quality of the landscape. In our particular situation and location, we can study the changes that occur to Illinois prairie, shrubland and forest ecosystems while in the process of restoring them. By comparing the data we collect at JJC with other natural areas, a student gains perspective of the quality of habitat and the difficulties that exist in repairing a degraded plant community and the animal life it supports."

In addition, the JJC natural areas restoration project will serve as a time capsule of sorts, allowing visitors and students a glimpse into the past. Neill said that less than one percent of what was once Illinois prairie still exists, and what remains is rare.

Starting this fall and into spring 2011, the project continues with the reseeding of native flowering plants and grasses, along with the application of herbicides to areas where non-native plants have begun to grow back.

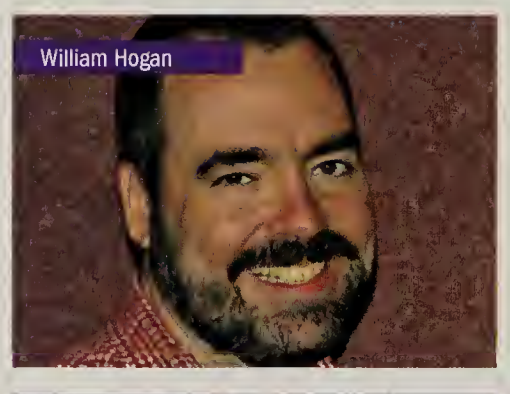
"There will be places that come in great, and others that will resist," Neill said. "We're working with a diverse population of plants—that's the fun and excitement of studying the dynamic nature of the prairie."

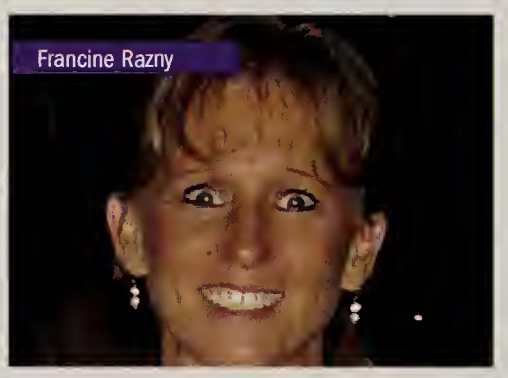


"Like the Master Plan, the ecological restoration project is one of campus renewal after decades of neglect."

-Andy Neill, natural sciences professor

Successful Connections


William Hogan


Francine Razny


Philip Spencer


Chef Tim Bucci

William Hogan, physics professor, received the American Association of Physics Teachers Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching Award at the APPT summer meeting in Portland, Ore., in July. The national award is given by the APPT based on contributions to undergraduate teaching, in addition to successfully helping students of all levels understand and appreciate physics.

Francine Razny, adjunct faculty member, received a President's Volunteer Service Award for her volunteer efforts with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 to promote understanding and support among employers of those who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. For the third year in a row, Razny received a Bronze Award, which requires volunteers to dedicate 100-249 hours in one year.

Philip Spencer, music professor and director of choral and vocal music, served as the accompanist to the prestigious 100-voice College Honors Repertoire Chorus at the American Choral Directors Association conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, in February. In addition, two members of the JJC Chamber Singers were also invited to sing with the choir, sophomores Marisa Catalano of Plainfield and Erick Flores of Bolingbrook.

Chef Tim Bucci, JJC culinary professor, recently made the U.S. World Culinary Olympic Team. Bucci joins six chefs from across the country to make up the U.S. team that will compete in Germany in 2012. To earn a place on the team, he had to pass a rigorous review and participate in cold-food, hot-food and pastry elimination competitions.

Ryan Smith, vice president for institutional advancement and research, has been selected to be a peer reviewer for The Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program.

Paige Vanderhyden, manager of workforce development, was selected to participate in the Eastern Michigan Regional Leadership Forum for Women Leaders, which is sponsored by the Office of Women in Higher Education of the American Council on Education.

Kristin Mulvey, director of institutional advancement, has been selected by the Council for Resource Development's Campus Impact Award in the Private Fundraising Professional category. She will be honored in November during the 44th Annual CRD Conference in Washington, D.C.


Ryan Smith


Paige Vanderhyden


Kristin Mulvey

College Acquires White Store as City Center Campus Project Continues

by **Kelly Rohder**



On Sept. 9, Joliet Junior College completed the $480,000 deal with the city of Joliet to acquire the property at 235 N. Chicago St., also known as the White Store, in downtown Joliet.

The land, which is adjacent to the college's Renaissance Center, will be the site for the new City Center Campus.

"Completing the sale of the White Store is a big step forward for the college," Dr. Gena Proulx, JJC president, said. "Now, we can begin our work to create a campus in downtown Joliet that will provide learning opportunities for our residents in a new facility that will be a complement to the cityscape of downtown Joliet."

Demolition of the building is tentatively scheduled for November, along with a groundbreaking ceremony tentatively scheduled for the Dec. 14 board of trustees meeting.

In August, Dominick Domenica of DKA Architecture presented three different renderings to the Joliet City Council for a new 150,000-square-foot building that would stand on the White Store property at the corner of Chicago and Webster Streets.

The proposed structure would house the college's nationally renowned culinary arts and hospitality programs as well as workforce development, GED/ESL training, and adult education programs. The college estimates that this plan would bring over 500 additional JJC students to the downtown Joliet area.

Proulx told the city council that the college's planned enhancements to the City Center Campus include the relocation of adult education, GED Services and the Will County Work Net Center to the new building.

"In addition to relocating signature programs from the Main Campus like the Culinary Arts program, we plan to add new spaces or amenities to accommodate the identified needs of our students at this site," she said. "These include a support library, computer lab and/or kiosks, science lab, fitness area and casual eating area."

With $15 million from the 2008 bond referendum dedicated to the City Center Campus project, JJC is also pursuing partnerships and creative funding solutions to potentially raise additional funds to cover the building plan, which is currently at $42 million. The college could also tap into a potential $21 million in capital funds from the state of Illinois.

In mid May, the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission asked the college to consider preserving the building, which, according to documents in the Joliet Township Assessor's Office, was constructed in 1908.

College officials began reviewing the academic needs and space requirements of programs to be housed at the City Center Campus over the summer. The result of those findings revealed that these needs currently exceed the 40,000 square feet of space in the four-story White Store building. The earliest any construction could happen on the site would be in late summer of 2011.

The college is currently exploring potential opportunities to commemorate some of the history of the White Store building either into the new site or in a possible partnership with the Joliet Area Historical Museum. Proulx, along with other college employees and members of the Mortenson Development, Inc. team recently visited Morton College in Chicago, which has a small museum in one of its buildings dedicated to the history of the area.

In addition, the college will continue its commitment to restoring and renovating the historic Renaissance Center, which is currently part of the existing City Center Campus.

Designed in 1925 by the Chicago-based D.H. Burnham and Co., the Renaissance Center was originally built for the Joliet Chamber of Commerce and also was a locally acclaimed nightclub and restaurant facility, featuring big name entertainers like Louis Armstrong and Phyllis Diller.

The hotel building, which is the college's current campus site, will be torn down once the project is completed.



JJC CHEFS PARTICIPATE IN FIRST LADY'S NATIONAL NUTRITION INITIATIVE

by **Kelly Rohder**

Two Joliet Junior College culinary instructors were invited to the White House this summer to kick off an initiative designed to fight childhood obesity and help educate kids about food and nutrition.



First Lady Michelle Obama addresses the group of over 100 chefs in the White House Garden.

The Chefs Move to Schools initiative, led by First Lady Michelle Obama and White House Chef Sam Kass, invited more than 100 chefs from across the country to the June 4 launch on the South Lawn. Michael McGreal, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Department chair and Kyle Richardson, JJC culinary professor, were two of five chefs from Illinois chosen to attend and represent the American Culinary Federation.



"The obesity epidemic that is facing our nation has led to an explosion of related health issues," McGreal said. "Mrs. Obama and White House Chef Sam Kass have put forth a challenge for chefs across America to come together to solve this health dilemma and I'm honored to be a part of it."

McGreal plans to partner with schools in Joliet and Chicago. Richardson, who has five children, said he will start with the four schools in his kids' district, the Lincoln-Way Community High School District in New Lenox.

"The good news is we have this opportunity to make a difference," Richardson said. "The bad news is there's not a lot of money to work with. That's why my approach is going to focus on using what you have."

He added that there are simple, less costly solutions to making school lunches healthier, like draining the syrup from canned fruit, or using wheat noodles in spaghetti while adding herbs and sautéed vegetables.

McGreal said that with the explosion of television cooking shows and some chefs reaching a celebrity-like status, chefs now have a substantial opportunity to connect with kids as role models and mentors to change their way of thinking about food and overall nutrition.

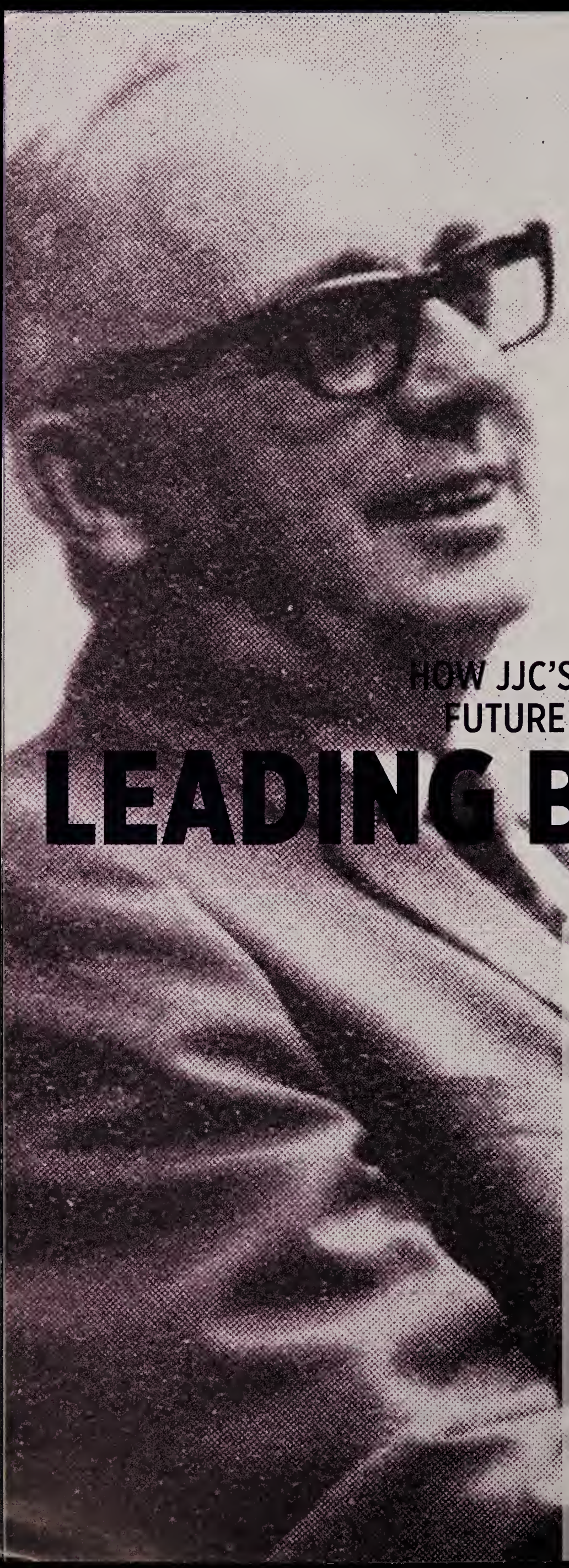
"The program allows us to help kids that just need a little direction, guidance and motivation to get healthy," he said. "We can't sit back anymore and hope this epidemic just goes away. The potential for greatness and opportunity should be what continually increases for our nation's kids, not their waistlines."

In her speech at the event, Obama said the solution to childhood obesity will not come from Washington alone.

"Instead, as we've said all this time, it's going to take all of us – it's going to take all of us -- parents and teachers, community leaders, food manufacturers, all of us doing our part to give our children the healthy future they deserve," she said. "And it's going to take all of you, our nation's chefs. That's why I am so moved to see you all here. You all are at the heart of this initiative, because if anyone understands nutrition and food, it's the folks sitting here in their whites today."

Chefs Kyle Richardson and Michael McGreal in the White House Garden.





HOW JJC'S FIRST PRESIDENT HELPED SHAPE THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN ILLINOIS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

by **Kelly Rohder**

Much like the community college he served, Joliet Junior College's first president Elmer Rowley was many things to many people.

For some, he was a respected leader in Illinois higher education legislation. For others, he was a steadfast advocate of progressive college programs in a postwar world. To his five children—who all attended Joliet Junior College—he was a thoughtful, dependable and dedicated father.

Born in 1909, Elmer Wells Rowley spent the beginning years of his childhood on a farm in Montana. His mother had graduated from high school, and his father attended school through the second grade, as was common in the early days, and then stayed home to assist with the farm work, Rowley's son John, said.



Walter Zaida (left) stands with Elmer Rowley and Susan Wood during a JJC registration in the 1960s. (Photo courtesy of Robert Sterling)

After the family moved to Illinois to farm in rural Homer Township in 1918, Rowley went on to attend Lockport High School, most times traveling to school by horse and buggy. After high school, he enrolled in the junior college courses located within Joliet Township High School, which, by 1927, had been settled for over two decades in the high school building on Eastern Avenue in downtown Joliet.

According to Robert Sterling's "Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College," before his graduation in 1929, Rowley played for the college's first baseball team in 1929 and was an actor in the production of the comedy "The Youngest," which perhaps inspired the "Rudolph Valentino" nickname written next to his yearbook photo.

John Rowley said his father graduated with high honors from both JJC and later, the University of Illinois. By 1941, Rowley had earned his master's degree from the University of Chicago in educational administration. Soon after, he spent a year in Hawaii as an exchange teacher, where he was also a foreman on a pineapple plantation.

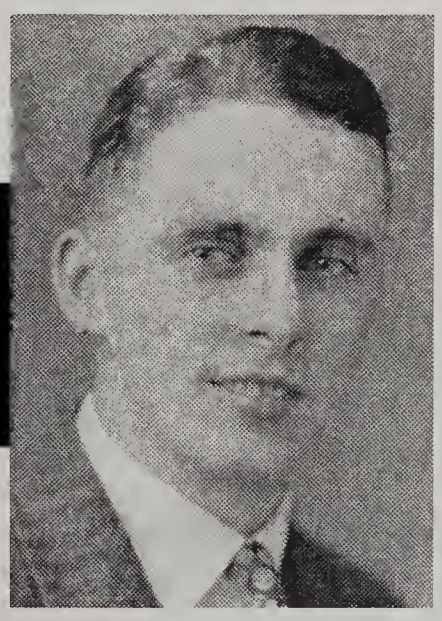
In 1942, Rowley was back in Joliet and teaching agriculture courses at the high school. By 1947, according to Sterling, the Board of Education hired him to become dean of the college in response to ballooning postwar enrollments and the need to broaden the college curriculum. Rowley would occupy this role for the next 20 years.

"Elmer was a deep thinker—he contemplated and listened," Walter Zaida, former JJC administrator and Rowley's colleague, said. "He challenged ideas to move them forward and was a hard-nosed negotiator for what he believed in."

Rowley's four daughters, with wife Ruth—Joanne '54; Jean '55; Sue '59; Carol '60—and his son John '66 all attended JJC in the years their father was dean.

"Though it was a pleasure to have him at the college, it always made us work harder so as not to let him down in any way," John Rowley said. "He was very outgoing and personable and enjoyed talking with and helping the students. He seemed to enjoy the long days at the old campus in downtown Joliet."

> "He challenged ideas to move them forward and was a hard-nosed negotiator for what he believed in."
>
> *– Walter Zaida*



And long days they were. Only four years into his post as dean of the college, Rowley was tapped in 1951 to concurrently direct the new adult education program. While these roles fully occupied his day-to-day life on campus, his ideas of the future of community colleges in Illinois were percolating.

Rowley ultimately believed two-year institutions should receive financial support from the state like four-year colleges and universities did, and that they should exist within their own districts. At the time, the college fell under the jurisdiction of the high school board, and received no funding from the state.

"He lobbied members of the state legislature on important issues, served on national committees of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC) and invited educational leaders to come see what JJC was doing academically," John Rowley said. "These visitors would come to our home for dinner and would tell us their stories and share their families with us."

By 1967, Rowley had rallied enough political support in Springfield to make both dreams a reality, and even had a part in co-writing the original legislation which established community college districts in the state of Illinois that still exist today.

It wasn't long after that Rowley, then 58, was selected to become the first president of Joliet Junior College on Aug. 15, 1967. For the next two years, he worked prodigiously to establish the college's new location on Houbolt Road, which opened in September 1969.
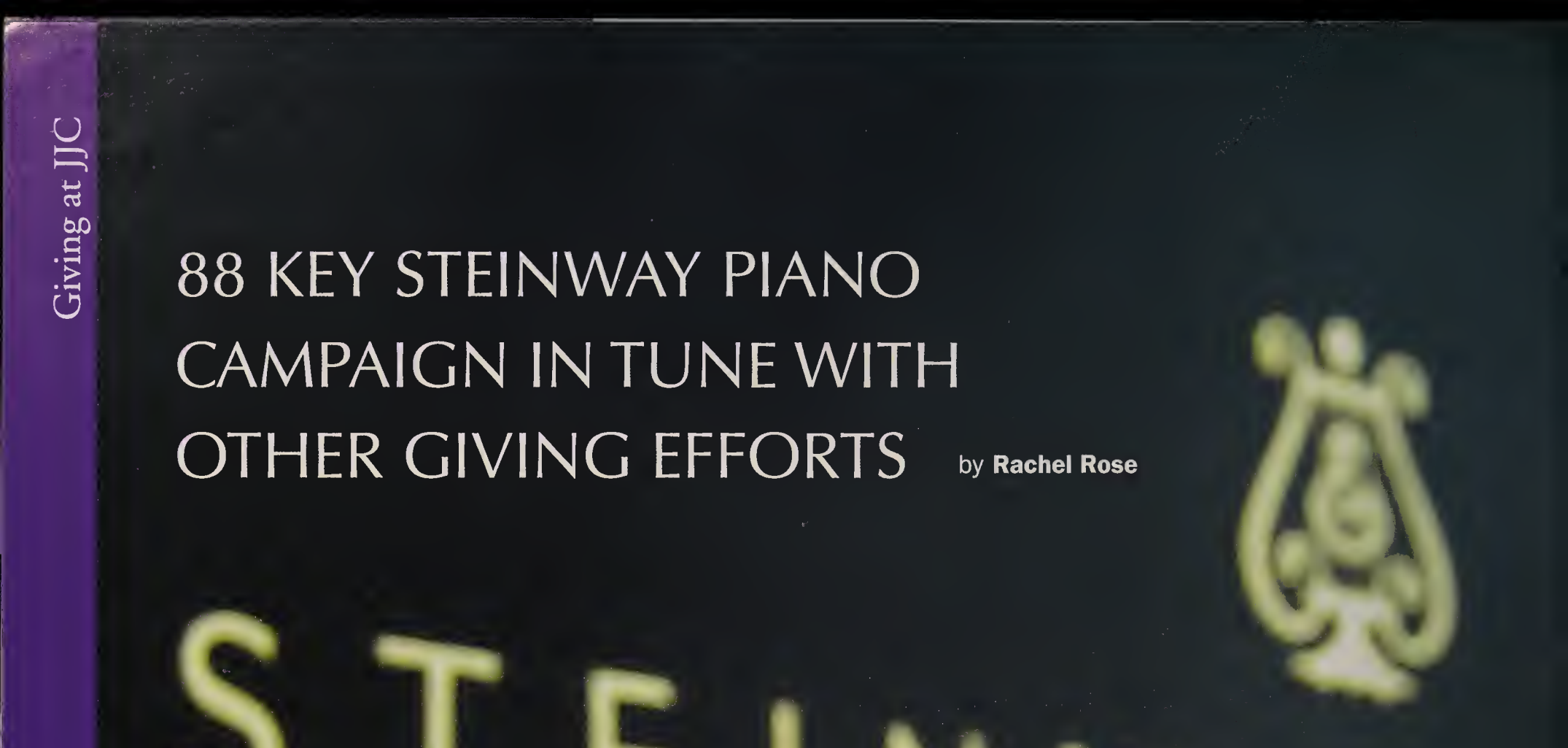
Despite the intensity of his work in the later years, Rowley's children vividly remembered their father outside the office: fishing, going out to eat in Chicago's Chinatown, or going ballroom dancing at the O'Henry in Willow Springs.

Rowley retired in 1970 to once again live the life of a farmer on his acreage in Homer Township. He passed away in July 1988.

"His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and in the course of action he took to make the college a true service to the community," John Rowley said. "Not before or since have we witnessed a funeral visitation where so many people attended. It was a true witness to his greatness as a man of the people."

88 KEY STEINWAY PIANO CAMPAIGN IN TUNE WITH OTHER GIVING EFFORTS

by **Rachel Rose**



There are many options available to alumni and friends of JJC who wish to support life-changing learning opportunities for JJC students.

The new 88 Key Steinway Piano campaign kicked off this year to fund the purchase of a Model B Steinway piano for the college's Fine Arts concert hall. Donors can purchase keys for $750 each, and some donors have already purchased more than one. The college plans to someday be a Steinway school, which means that all the pianos used in the music program would be exclusively Steinway. The program has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music since 2002.

"In the two years that I have been a part of this faculty, I have found an exciting place to work and perform. That is what makes me so happy about this initiative. The Steinway campaign shows JJC's commitment to the arts," said Dr. Daniela Broderick, assistant professor of music.

Another option for giving to JJC is joining the Heritage Society, which consists of donors that have put JJC in their will or have made JJC the recipient of some or all of their estate. Donations can be earmarked in a person's will to an endowed scholarship or any of the college's academic programs for equipment and supplies. An endowment can be set up for a minimum of $20,000. The principal amount in the account is never touched and the interest is given to the students to be used for books, tuition or fees. Endowed scholarships are named in memorial or honor of a certain person. **To learn more about the Heritage Society, visit www.jjc.edu/info/heritage.**

To learn more about giving opportunities at JJC or to make a donation, call (815) 280-2353 or visit www.jjc.edu/about/foundation.

Alumni Board

Joliet Junior College welcomes these new members to the Alumni Board



Theresa Micetich (1993)

Theresa Micetich earned an Associate in Arts degree from JJC and a bachelor's degree in administration from Urban Ministry, City Vision College in 2008.

Currently, Micetich is the director of development for MorningStar Mission in Joliet. In this capacity, she educates the community on how the mission helps change so many lives on a daily basis. Over the past three years, she has helped to organize a benefit that has raised over $136,000 to support the MorningStar Mission Family Center.

As a member of the JJC Alumni Board of Directors, Micetich said she is looking to give back to JJC and to learn more about JJC programs.



Brian A. Thompson (1993)

Brian A. Thompson is a lifelong resident of Joliet. He attended JJC, earning his associate degree in 1993. Thompson transferred to Governors State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business. He also holds a master's degree in finance from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Thompson continually invests in building long-term relationships in the community, which is an asset he hopes to bring to the JJC Alumni Board of Directors.

Currently, he is president of Black & Essington Solutions LLC, a consulting firm focused on improving clients' business performance through innovative training programs and development systems. Thompson is also a business analyst for the JJC Small Business Development Center.



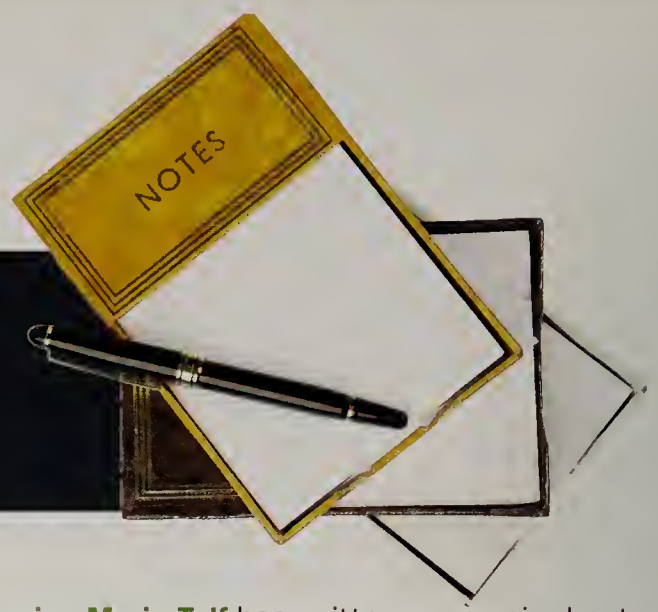
Lara Vander Ploeg (1993)

Lara Vander Ploeg has lived in the area for nearly 20 years. She earned an Associate of Arts degree from JJC in 2002.

Vander Ploeg is the owner of the coaching company, Birdseyeview, where she is a coach, keynote speaker, and commercial actor. With this unique blend of experience, she has assisted corporations, non-profits and educational organizations with marketing and public relations for over 15 years. Vander Ploeg is also a member of two local chambers of commerce.

As a member of the JJC Alumni Board of Directors, she hopes to help current students and graduates achieve their goals.

Alumni Notes



1953 **John Pretto, M.D.** graduated from JJC with an associate degree, and then majored in pre-med at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was accepted to the university's medical school in his third year. After finishing medical school in 1954, he completed a residency in radiology in 1958. Pretto continues to practice medicine while he enjoys being semi-retired. He explains, "JJC was a very comprehensive pre-medical education and allowed me to survive the grueling medical school and residency training."

1955 **Anne Somervill nee Dodge** received her associate degree at Joliet Junior College, and then attended Northwestern University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts.

1957 **Lucius J. Vargas** earned an Associate of Arts degree from JJC. He then attended Western Illinois University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979, before earning a Master of Arts degree from Iowa State University in 1987.

1971 **Michael Bowlan** received an Associate of Liberal Arts degree at Joliet Junior College. He then went on to earn two master's degrees.

1973 **Kevin Balog** works in mergers/acquisitions with the Brandon Group, where he has offices in Indianapolis and Chicago. He also teaches management/leadership for the Prof Ed Graduate Department of Defense in relationships with Central Michigan University (CMU). He has been associate professor of management at CMU since 1994.



Lynn Jencon received an associate degree in law enforcement at Joliet Junior College. After graduating from JJC, Jencon attended Western Illinois University and earned a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and went on to receive a master's degree in social justice at Lewis University. Jencon, who is now retired, worked for the Will County Sheriff's Police for 28 years.

1978 **Francine Marie Tolf** has written a memoir about growing up in Joliet called, "Joliet Girl," published by North Star Press of St. Cloud. Tolf has also written a full-length collection of poems: "Rain, Lilies, Luck." She mentions how she enjoyed her years at JJC in her memoir. To read more on Tolf, visit www.francinemarietolf.com.

1983 **Gloria Taylor** received an associate degree from JJC. After earning her bachelor's degree, she teaches middle school, which she says is the job of her dreams.

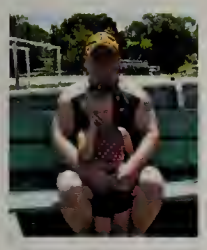
1989 **Laurie Myre** received her associate degree in agriculture from JJC. She received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Western Illinois University in 1991. Myre says she loves working in agriculture.

1992 **Sara Washburn** earned an Associate in Science degree at Joliet Junior College. She went on to earn a master's degree in organizational leadership from Lewis University in May 2010. Washburn also has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of St. Francis. She recently moved to Cody, Wyo., where she is clinical manager of women's health at West Park Hospital.

Sergeant First Class Mark T. Ballard, a native of Joliet, was selected as the Army National Guard Instructor of the Year for 2009 by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

Over the past six years, Ballard has worked with members of the Illinois National Guard and Army Reserve to train soldiers in their military specific skills, leadership and preparation for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Ballard is a certified instructor with the Air Defense Artillery School, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Officer Candidate School, Army Basic Instructor Course and Small Group Instructor Course Manager. Ballard has also served as a guest instructor with the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark. Ballard celebrated 19 years of service April 19.

1999



Harvey Van Cleave earned an associate degree in criminal justice at Joliet Junior College. He then earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Governors State University. Van Cleave has worked as deputy chief of police for the Morris Police Department and is currently an adjunct professor at Governors State University.

2001



Jennifer Pankow completed a bachelor's degree at Aurora University. She attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University, where she earned a master's degree in psychology before accepting an offer to study and conduct research at Texas Christian University. Currently, Pankow is a PhD candidate at Texas Christian University Institute of Behavioral Research. Pankow says graduating from the JJC Criminal Justice Program and studying under the direction of her mentor, Don Ernst, remains a highlight of her academic career and is the foundation of her research interests today. She says the JJC Criminal Justice Program set an academic standard for criminal justice studies that prepared her for the demands of undergraduate and graduate school.

2004



Tammy Raynor, a JJC graduate, transferred to Governors State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Raynor is currently a special agent II (investigator) with the Secretary of State Inspector General's office.

2005

David Nietzold, a JJC graduate, transferred to Northern Illinois University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2007. Nietzold is currently working at Newell Rubbermaid as a chemical technician.

2007



Keila Harris, a JJC graduate, transferred to Wheaton College, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 2009 at the age of 19. Harris received a full multicultural scholarship to Wheaton College. She has lived overseas twice since graduating from JJC.

We need your e-mail address and other pertinent information about you, including news about your family, your career, and any other information you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**

2010 Annual Golf Outing

On June 21, the Joliet Junior College Foundation celebrated its 20th annual golf outing. The event, which raises money for student scholarships, was held at the Joliet Country Club with 96 golfers attending. This year's event sponsor was Gilbane Construction. Approximately **$27,000 was raised** for scholarships for the 2010 academic year. The Foundation awards over $700,000 annually to the college's students.



First Place Team: Chuck Homolka, Bill Greiner, John Stiglich and Steve Medvesky.

The Joliet Junior College Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank:

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Jim Serr
Sybaris Pool Suites
The Department

Golf Winners

First Place Team	Bill Greiner, Steve Medvesky, Chuck Homolka, John Stiglich
Longest Drive	Dan Montgomery – **Men** Trish Harrington – **Women**
Closest to the Pin	Tom Weeks, Armand Schultz
Top raffle prize	$1,000

Upcoming Events at JJC



2010 5K Dollars for Scholars Walk and Run

Beginning in February 2011

Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshops

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Scholarship Recognition/Donor Dinner Event

Saturday, April 30, 2011

5K Dollars for Scholars Walk and Run

Sunday, June 12,2011

Annual JJC Alumni Brunch

Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for up-to-date information on events.

JJC is GOING GREEN!

JJC is committed to sustainable practices that support the college's strategic goal of environmental stewardship.

As part of that commitment, this magazine is printed on FSC-certified paper and is also readable in an electronic format at **www.jjc.edu/info/magazine.**

CULTURE AT JJC!



Every year, the Fine Arts Department offers a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. With excellent theatre productions, must-see art gallery openings and nationally recognized musical offerings, the college is a cultural destination in the Chicagoland area.

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

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Virginia Bouie '85 enjoys teaching and engaging students' minds in her classroom. Her success story started at JJC.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

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joliet junior college magazine

you're hired!



Classroom to Careers
- Education That Leads to Employment

You're Hired
- Culinary grads find amazing careers and views at Trump Tower

JJC Annual Report
- 2010 Year in Review

SPRING 2011

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Get started on your career today: Summer classes begin May 16.

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CONNECTIONS

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As the pressure increases for college students to secure a good job, JJC continues to prepare them to excel after they graduate.



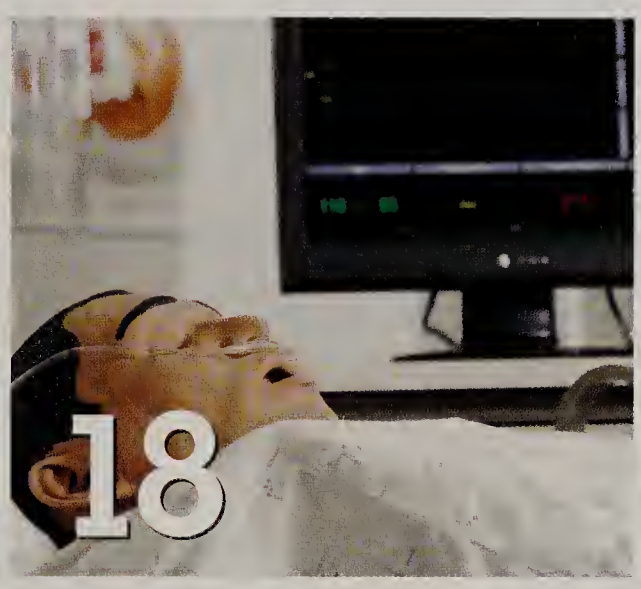
You're Hired: Culinary grads find amazing careers and views at Trump Tower

Meals for The Donald and Transformers movie crews? All in a days work for JJC grads Ender Oktayuren and Erica Kendall, who work in the kitchen of Sixteen, Trump Tower's four-star restaurant.



Small Business Development Center Makes Big Impact on Local Business

When Mark and Jenny Scherf decided to start a music instrument business, they turned to JJC's Small Business Development Center for guidance and expertise.



Saving Patient Stan

Training on simulator doll gives JJC nursing students an experience second only to the real thing.



2010 Annual Report

Review of financials from FY 2010 for the college and the JJC Foundation.

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CONNECTIONS



We are pleased to provide you with another edition of the *Connections* magazine. In this issue, you'll find stories about the success of our graduates in the workplace alongside the college's 2010 Annual Report. While the annual report explains the college's financial picture, the stories detail JJC's impact on and investment in our community, especially that of our students, alumni, faculty and staff who are doing amazing things in the workplace and in the community.

While the news from the state continues to be bleak, it's our commitment to make quality affordable education available to our District 525 residents. For the past 38 years, the college has presented a balanced operating budget and has been honored with the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth year in a row. We believe that the leadership of our Board of Trustees is a major contributor to the continued financial strength of this institution.

Joliet Junior College is proud to be your community college. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the faculty and staff, thank you for all that you do for Joliet Junior College.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gena Proulx
President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

This issue of *Connections* focuses on employability and so our theme is, "You're Hired!" Did you know that nearly 75 percent of area employers hired a JJC student at some point over the past 10 years? Why are JJC students so readily employed? According to the *JJC Institutional Research Learning Outcomes Fact Sheet* published in 2009, there is a correlation between success in reading, writing and relationship building (with college personnel) and a person's ability to engage in an intellectual environment. Students commonly feel that their education at JJC contributes to their knowledge, skills and development. Annually, more than 45,000 people change their lives through degree or certificate programs, training and lifelong learning courses at Joliet Junior College.

Dan Filar '08 is a great example of a successful JJC alumnus whose commitment to education and hard work has paid off. Dan took business management courses while at JJC. Today, he is a consultant for Corporate Communications, Public Relations at Discover Financial Services. Discover Financial Services (NYSE: DFS) is a direct banking and payment services company with one of the most recognized brands in U.S. financial services.

Dan earned his bachelor's degree at Columbia College in Chicago. His experience includes consulting at the Joliet Area Historical Museum, special events coordinator at the Will County Center for Economic Development, and an internship with pr Alliance. Dan, like most JJC alumni, is dedicated to hard work and responsive to environments that breed success.

The time has come for me to say goodbye to JJC. I have accepted the position of executive director of the Kankakee Community College Foundation. I will always hold dear my time at JJC and the people who have made and continue to make the college special. I wish the college and each of you a bright future. Please enjoy this issue of the *Connections* magazine.

Best,

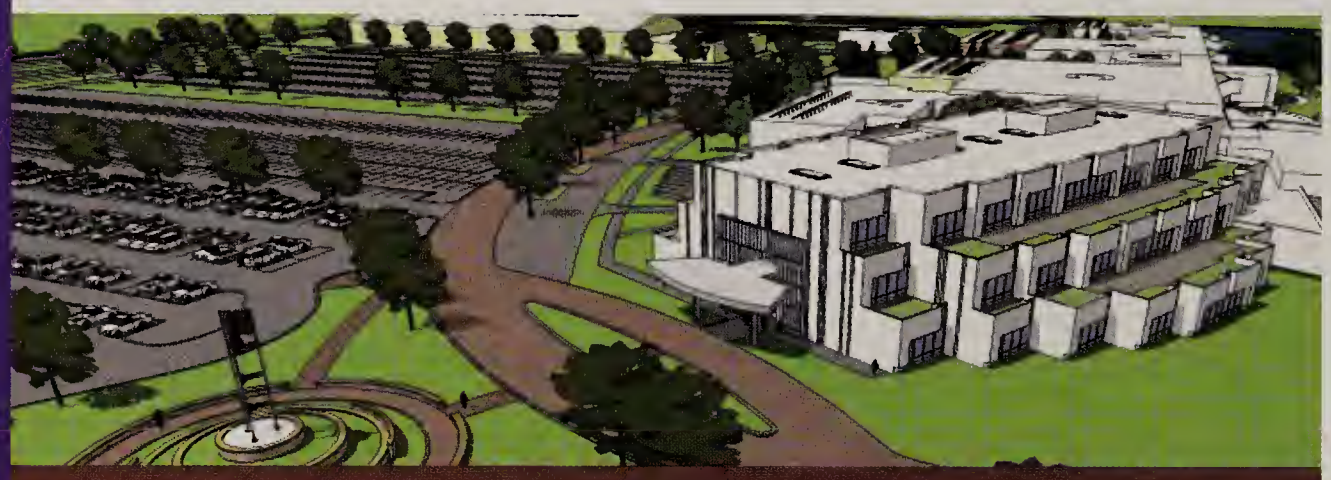
Kelly Myers



Dan Filar '08

Consultant for Corporate Communications,
Public Relations at Discover Financial Services

News Briefs



The Campus Center will be operational for the fall 2011 semester.

College Readies for move to Campus Center

Joliet Junior College is preparing for the opening of its new Campus Center. As final construction work finishes inside the building, the college is working to communicate to students and staff what offices will be moving and when they will be moving.

The building, which will be LEED-certified with green roofs, will provide one-stop access to all student services, additional parking and access to natural areas. All of the office moves will occur during the summer of 2011 and the building will be operational for the fall 2011 semester.

For more information on the Campus Center, visit www.jjc.edu/masterplan.

DCEO Grant Funds Local Foods Project

Joliet Junior College is in the beginning stages of developing a local foods project, with the help of a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Multiple college departments are working together to understand the local foods status within and around the JJC region and are planning to establish a local foods enterprise or farmers market on the college campus.

That a population would rely on locally produced foods to sustain itself isn't a new idea. It's only been in the latter half of the 20th century that small farms, World War II-era Victory Gardens or farmers markets waned in favor of mass-produced food by large-scale distributors. But as the movement for

GROW
FOOD • COMMUNITY • ECONOMY

sustainable living continues to grow, the concept of locally produced food has started to gain support as well.

Since the college received the DCEO grant in 2009, it has started the production of an outdoor vegetable garden as well as a hydroponic food production process in the new LEED-registered JJC Greenhouse Facility.

For Maria Rafac, a JJC instructor, the answer to successfully growing a sustainable culture and green economy in our communities is food.

"In order to become a healthy, sustainable community, we need healthy and sustainable families and that all begins with what and how we eat," she said.

In December 2010, the college held a kick-off event, "GROW Food Community Economy" that featured a sustainable, local foods breakfast and three nationally known speakers within the local foods movement: John Ikerd, agricultural economist and author; Terra Brockman, author and founder of The Land Connection; and Jim Slama, founder and president of Family Farmed.

For more information about the college's efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/grow.**

White Store Demolition Makes Way for Expanded City Center Campus

Demolition of the former White Store, 235 N. Chicago St., in downtown Joliet began Jan. 24 to make room for the expanded JJC City Center Campus. The first strike happened at 8:11 a.m. on the northwest corner of the four-story building, which was constructed in 1908.

The entire process took around 20 days to complete, as the demolition plan called for vertical sections of the structure to be dismantled.

JJC purchased the property in September 2010 to expand the campus. The property is adjacent



Demolition of the former White Store began Jan. 24 to make room for the expanded JJC City Center Campus.

to the college's Renaissance Center. The college will pay for the project using funds from its successful 2008 $89 million referendum.

At the time of this magazine's publication, the design of the new building had not yet been finalized, but it is known that the structure will house the college's culinary arts and hospitality programs as well as adult education programs.

According to Herald-News archives, the White Store occupied the building starting in October 1938, and sold apparel, sporting goods and furniture. It closed in 1980. Turk Furniture then bought the building and used it as a warehouse until 2009.

JJC Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for Health Professions Building

Sen. A.J. Wilhelmi and Rep. Emily McAsey were among those who attended the college's Health Professions groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 25, held in the T-Building Conference Center.

Another special guest was iStan (see pg. 18), the nursing program's patient simulator that, in addition to being the anchor of photos with dignitaries, was part of a demonstration with students highlighting new technologies in the program.

The 124,000-square-foot building will be constructed in the open area north of the existing T-Building and will allow the college to offer new, in-demand programs.

Mary Beth Luna, Nursing and Allied Health Department chair, said new programs planned for the building are ultrasound technician, surgical technician, medical assistant, physical therapy assistant, pharmacy technician, and massage therapy.

At the event, JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx shared employment projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2008 through 2018. The projections reveal that the health care and social assistance industry will make up approximately 26 percent of all new jobs created in the U.S. economy, which add up to four million new jobs.

And in a recent report by the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago, she added, the health care and social assistance field is also projected to have the largest increase in jobs through 2020, expected to add more than 80,000 jobs through 2015 and more than 140,000 through 2020.

"These are impressive numbers and they support the importance of this new building in meeting critical skills shortages in the labor market," Proulx said. "We believe this modern learning environment will be critical to providing our students the training they need to take advantage of the many job opportunities available."

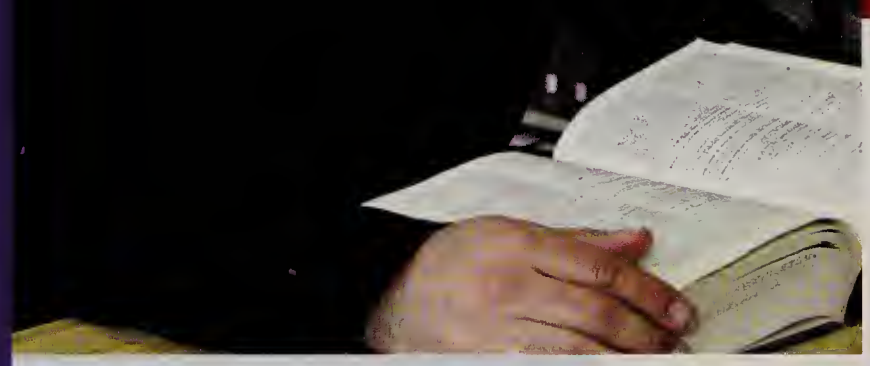
For more Master Plan updates, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/masterplan.**

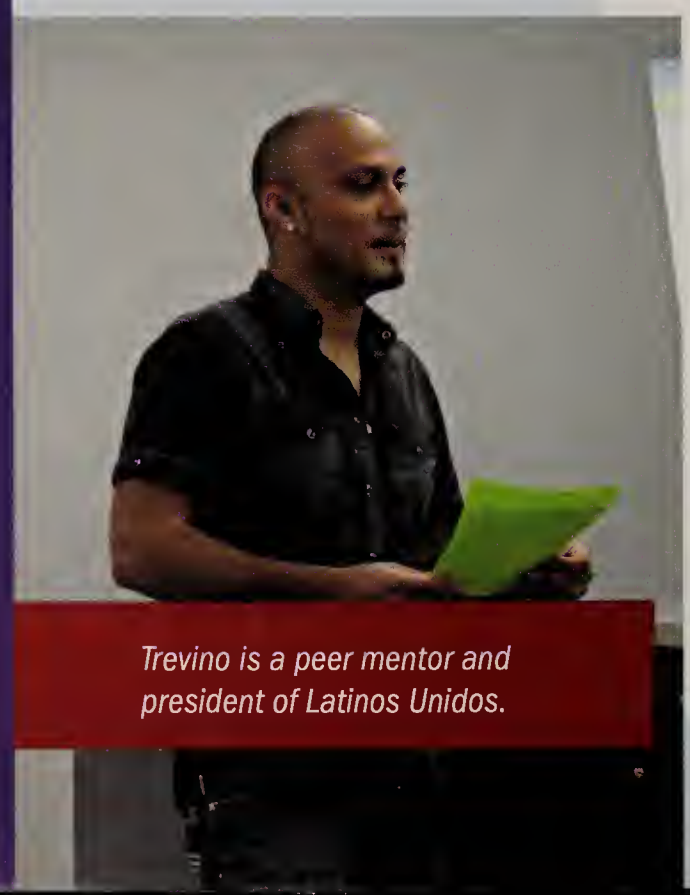
Alfonso Trevino

by **Ericka Wellner**

As Alfonso Trevino begins to describe his start at JJC, the hint of a smile crosses his face before he jokingly refers to himself as a nontraditional student.







Trevino is a peer mentor and president of Latinos Unidos.

"I'm 30 years old," he laughs, "older than most students."

Trevino first enrolled at JJC over a decade ago at the age of 18; however, for personal reasons, he had to postpone his education after only a semester.

He spent the next several years in the workforce, primarily working in the technology department of a Circuit City.

"I worked for them for a while, but then the company went out of business," says Trevino. "I had nothing to fall back on. At that point, I knew I had to go back to school and receive an education."

So once again, Trevino enrolled at JJC in 2008 and declared a major in business. It wasn't long before, as Trevino says, another career path fell into his lap.

"Being involved in clubs like Latinos Unidos and peer mentoring really gave me the opportunity to work with other students. I realized I had a knack for motivating and connecting with my peers," Trevino explains.

Trevino is in his third year as a member of Latinos Unidos, his second year as president of the club. Latinos Unidos is an organization devoted to encouraging higher education and promoting leadership among students and the community.

"I realized I had a knack for motivating and connecting with my peers." – *Alfonso Trevino*

Along with serving as president for Latinos Unidos, Trevino is also a peer mentor.

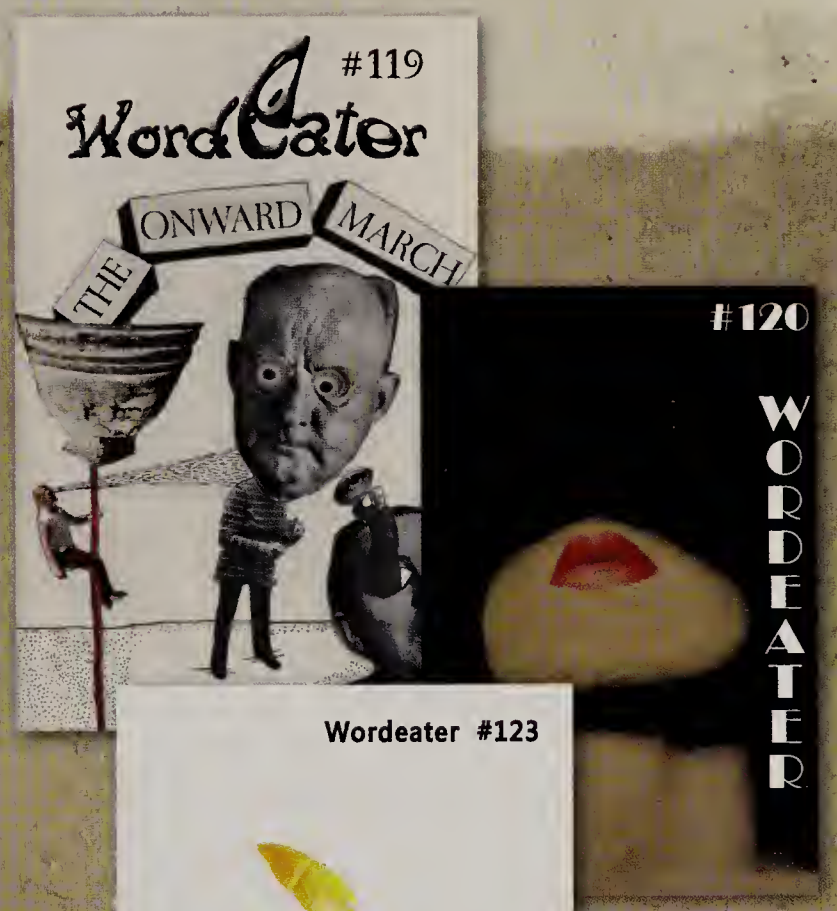
"I try and help incoming students make the transition from high school to college. We help them get acquainted to the college environment and introduce them to all of the programs and services JJC offers," Trevino says. "I was in their boat [as an incoming student]. Sometimes you just need that kick to help get you going in the right direction."

After he graduates, he plans to transfer to Governors State University to pursue a degree in counseling. Like Trevino has done for so many other students, JJC has given him a "kick" in the right direction.

"Without the push and motivation from my mentor Michelle Roman, director of multicultural affairs, I wouldn't be who I am today," Trevino says. "JJC has given me a glimpse of what I can be."

WORDEATER

OFFERS CREATIVE OUTLET AT JJC





Scanning the webpages that make up the *Wordeater*'s latest edition, it's hard to believe the first issue of JJC's literary and creative magazine was created nearly 40 years ago on a mimeograph machine.

The magazine, which is published biannually, features creative works of students, faculty, alumni and staff. Founded in 1972 by Professor John Stobart of the English and Foreign Languages Department, poetry, short fiction, essays, book reviews, and even original audio and video have been a part of the *Wordeater*.

Former advisers Bill Yarrow, Stacey Murphy and current faculty adviser Adam Heidenreich have helped steer *Wordeater* through various incarnations, including the establishment of the John Stobart Award for Poetry, and moving the publication to the web in 2004.

"*Wordeater* has helped keep a tradition of free artistic expression alive at JJC and has enjoyed great support from its community," said Heidenreich.

Wordeater is available in print on campus and online at **www.wordeater.org.**





Classrooms to Careers: Education that Leads to Employment

by **Rachel Rose**



The pressure to secure a good job after college has perhaps never been felt more keenly by college students than now.

According to a report published by the University of California at Los Angeles higher Education Research Institute, for 56 percent of freshmen in 2009, a very important factor in choosing to attend a college was that its graduates get good jobs—a record high.

"Our primary responsibility, as a community college, is to provide academic and training programs in response to local labor market needs and to ensure that our graduates are well-prepared to excel in these careers," said Dr. Valerie Roberson, vice president of academic affairs.

One of JJC's 2008 strategic goals was to develop programs that anticipate and respond to labor market demand, and the college has since begun offering more programs that prepare students for successful career paths.

Some programs such as nursing have already been fulfilling this goal for the past 40 years; newer ones such as the orthotics and prosthetics program funnel its graduates into careers in a nationally high-demand field.

Architecture, Engineering and Construction

Launched in 2007, the AEC program introduces students to one of the most challenging careers they can pursue.

"Many students are surprised to learn that in order to become a licensed architect, they have about 10 years of school ahead of them," said Maria Rafac, AEC program coordinator and licensed architect. "Our program is a starting point to transfer on to a four-year school, and it has prepared several students to transfer on to highly competitive architecture programs at schools such as UIC, Pratt, Judson University and SIU."



She also notes that while it is difficult to offer coursework that is accepted by all four-year architecture programs, JJC's program gives students the advantage of experience in the field and the opportunity to develop a portfolio.

"I've had transfer students who have come back and told me how grateful they are for what they learned ahead of time in the JJC program. I'm proud that we've been able to launch the careers of some very talented, promising students," Rafac said.

As for what architecture students need to be learning for the future, Rafac says sustainability is undoubtedly the most important topic, and JJC is already preparing students for that. She incorporates lessons about sustainable practices into her coursework, and students also are required to develop a project and demonstrate why and how it is sustainable.

"Sustainability will be huge in the future, and AEC is leading the charge," she said.

While many students who start the program do not go on to pursue all the schooling necessary to become an architect, one of the best aspects of the program, Rafac says, is that it gives students the opportunity to find out if a related career is right for them.

Through the program, students have discovered careers such as drafter, designer, interior decorator, engineer or landscape designer. And whether they find that architecture or another field is their dream career during their time at JJC, they are able to do it for thousands of dollars less than they would have spent at other schools.

"I've had transfer students who have come back and told me how grateful they are for what they learned ahead of time in the JJC program." - Maria Rafac

Orthotics and Prosthetics

JJC's orthotics and prosthetics technology program, one of only six such programs in the nation, is well positioned to train students to work in the field after graduation or prepare for further education. Students who pursue careers in this high-demand field train to work with orthopedic braces and artificial limbs for the rehabilitation medicine community and individuals with disabilities.

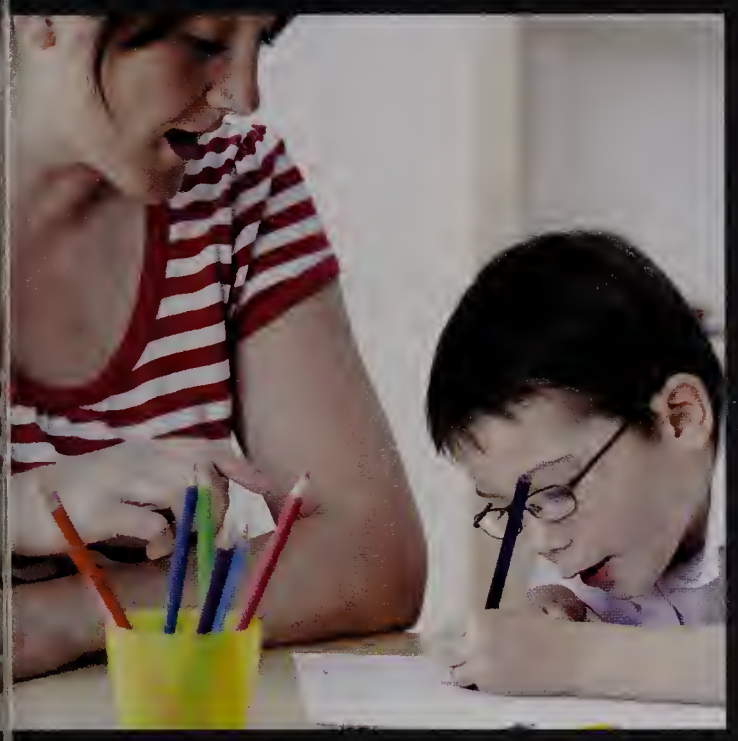
"There is a demand for OPT personnel," said Michael Brncick, OPT program director at JJC. "The Center for Disease Control predicts arthritis and diabetes will continue to be significant health issues far into the future, and O and P practitioners will be needed to meet the demands of people affected by these diseases. A number of our graduates have already filled positions in the Joliet and Chicago area."

According to Brncick, JJC graduates are finding employment (in the local area and in other states) as combined fitters and technicians, meaning they are utilizing patient care skills along with the technical skills they learned in the program.

Looking to the future, Brncick says that the OPT program at JJC is already planning to offer the coursework necessary to prepare for an assistant level practitioner position, which was recently reinstated by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics.

"We are already teaching students both technical and clinical knowledge and skills, and the assistant level practitioner would be a natural extension of our program," he said. "The OPT program at JJC provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to be successful now and in the future."





Special Education Teaching

JJC began offering the full coursework for the Associate of Arts in teaching special education in spring 2010, providing a unique degree to prepare students for transfer to a teacher education program at a four-year school. After completing the program at a four-year school, students then qualify for a teaching license and can pursue employment as special education teachers.

Professors Doreen Vieitez and Susan Krause concur that special education is a shortage area and that the employment outlook is better than average.

"Special education teachers are always in demand," Vieitez said.

The AAT degree offered by JJC is designed to help students transfer easily to a teacher education program.

"Institutions that accept the degree accept all of the courses as a package, so students begin their junior year as if they were native students," they said.

Nursing and Allied Health

Consistently boasting one of JJC's highest enrollments, the nursing program has earned its distinction of producing top-quality health care professionals as it works to meet the local and national demand for skilled workers.

"In 2009, JJC graduated more nursing students than any other associate degree nursing program in the state of Illinois," said Department Chair Mary Beth Luna. "We plan on maintaining that distinction."

The quality of the program is reflected in its numbers. In 2009, JJC nursing students had an impressive 99 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination – Practical Nurse) while the national average was 86 percent, and a 95 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse), higher than the national average of 88 percent.

"Our standards have always been high, but that is why our graduates do well on NCLEX-RN (state boards) and do well in the positions for which they are hired as new graduates," Luna said.

The students themselves attest to the quality of the program and how well it prepares them for their future careers.

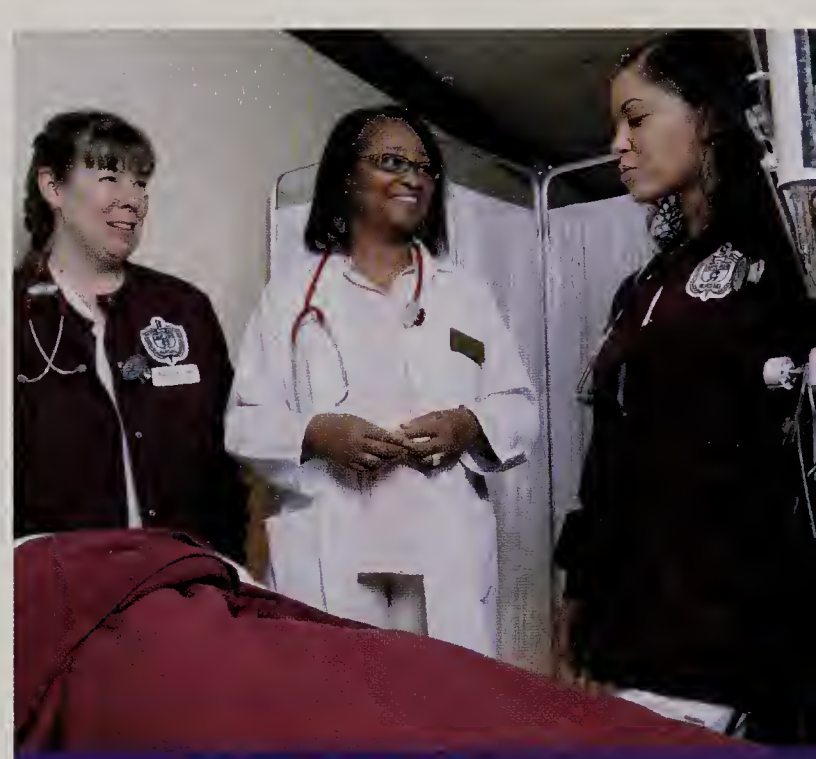
"I cannot begin to tell you the number of times I heard during clinical or in doing my 40-hour preceptorship from nurses and managers that they love JJC students," said Heidi Mesa, a 2010 nursing graduate. "They would say we are great students, we are motivated to learn, and we jump right in ready to do anything that is thrown our way. I have never felt more prepared in my life and I owe a big part of my success to the nursing program at JJC."

Though the current economy has created challenges for nursing graduates to find jobs, as in almost every other field, Luna is confident about future prospects for graduates.

"The demand for health care workers in almost all areas is projected to grow due to the aging of the population and health care reform," she said. "Also, many current health care workers, especially registered nurses, are projected to be retiring in large numbers in the next 10 to 20 years."

As the need for more health care workers has grown, JJC has responded. The nursing program has expanded by 60 percent over the last five years, including the addition of an evening program. With much-needed space being added with the new Health Professions Building, expected to open for classes in fall 2013, allied health training programs are expected to grow even more at JJC.

"With the increase in space we are planning on adding new allied health programs such as ultrasound, medical assistant, and massage therapy to answer the demand for health care careers," Luna said.



Nursing Program Celebrates Milestone

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the JJC nursing program's first graduating class. Department Chair Mary Beth Luna notes that while the program's reputation for educating high quality nurses has not changed, what has changed is the number of graduates: 11 in 1971 to 151 in 2010.

"Technology has changed greatly in the last 40 years, but the nursing faculty regularly reviews the curriculum for currency and rigor," Luna said. "As we look toward the beginning of construction of our new building, we are poised for another chapter in our illustrious history."

Ender Oktayuren and Erica Kendell enjoy the fast-paced environment of Sixteen, Trump Tower's four-star restaurant.

you're hired!

16 FLOORS HIGH IN TRUMP TOWER CHICAGO, 2 JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE CULINARY GRADS FIND LUCRATIVE CAREERS & AMAZING VIEWS

by **Kelly Rohder**



Though it's an uninspiring, bleak December day, views from the 16th floor of Trump Tower Chicago are anything but.

The 30-foot floor-to-ceiling windows allow an easterly view of the Chicago River's entrance into Lake Michigan, while the glazed terra cotta tiles of the Wrigley Building still gleam amid hazy cloud cover.

It's in this space—Trump's four-star restaurant, aptly called Sixteen—that JJC graduates Ender "Andy" Oktayuren '08 and Erica Kendall '07 started in the professional culinary arts world as chefs at the stylish eatery. Two years later, they've met Donald Trump, and made meals for the cast and crew of the latest Transformers movie. They even found time to get married in July 2010.

And through all of this, the 24-year-old Oktayuren is amazingly collected.

"Yes, I've met Donald Trump, and he is real down to earth," he says. "We've cooked for him, and he is a meat and potatoes kind of guy."

"We are always changing the menu . . .

Oktayuren, a native of Virginia, says he always wanted to be a chef, and at the urging of his grandfather in 2006, came to Joliet Junior College after learning of its national reputation in culinary arts.

"When I first came and looked at the school, I fell in love with it," Oktayuren says. "Ever since I was a little boy I've wanted to be a chef. When I was four years old, I would go into my parents' kitchen to make omelets. As far back as I can remember I have been in the kitchen cooking."

Both Oktayuren and Kendall discovered their culinary interests early in life, but it was in the college's culinary arts program that they discovered each other.

"My mom definitely played matchmaker," Kendall says, grinning. "We were both on the college's hot foods team at a competition in Milwaukee and she pointed him out."

After a few shy conversations, Oktayuren and Kendall were inseparable. That was in 2007. Soon after, Kendall graduated from JJC's culinary arts program and started looking in earnest for a job. Through a friend, she heard about an opening at Trump's new restaurant.

"I had to prove myself by learning very quickly," Kendall, a Manhattan, IL. native, says. "[My first day] I was thrown in on a Friday night service...I had to show whether I could handle it or not. You have to be creative because there are some things the chef leaves up to you to create. You also need to know your basics because the chefs expect to

national competition hosted by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) in the summer of 2008 with a winning menu of filet of dover sole florentine, composed salad of tomatoes, asparagus and endive, and chicken chasseur.

Kendall was named Student Culinarian of the Year by the ACF in 2007; Oktayuren was honored with the same title a year later. That May, he graduated and began his own job hunt.

"When Erica got the job at Trump, it was awesome—I was so excited for her," he says. "But I was sort of jealous at the same time. A job opportunity came up there a few months after I graduated. We talked about me working there with her, and decided we would try it out. It was the best thing that could



give you a recipe and you have to make it without them having to walk you through it. Or they might say, 'I want to try making this,' and you have to be able to create it whether you have a recipe or not...So they really test your skills, knowledge and creativity."

Oktayuren and Kendall both cite their experiences on the college's culinary competition teams, as well as their JJC faculty mentors Chef Tim Bucci and Chef Kyle Richardson, that gave them the training and expertise to land their current jobs.

"It really taught me how to work quickly, cleanly and accurately because you are judged not only on how your food tastes but also on how you prepared it—whether it was messy or clean," Kendall notes.

Competing head to head with other culinary arts students from Colorado, Georgia, Illinois and New York, Oktayuren took second place in a

have happened—I love working with her, getting to see her throughout the day."

Kendall describes a typical day at Trump Tower as being in a perpetual state of motion, where she starts her day setting up for the restaurant, baking cakes, sables, tuiles, and petit fours.

Oktayuren agrees.

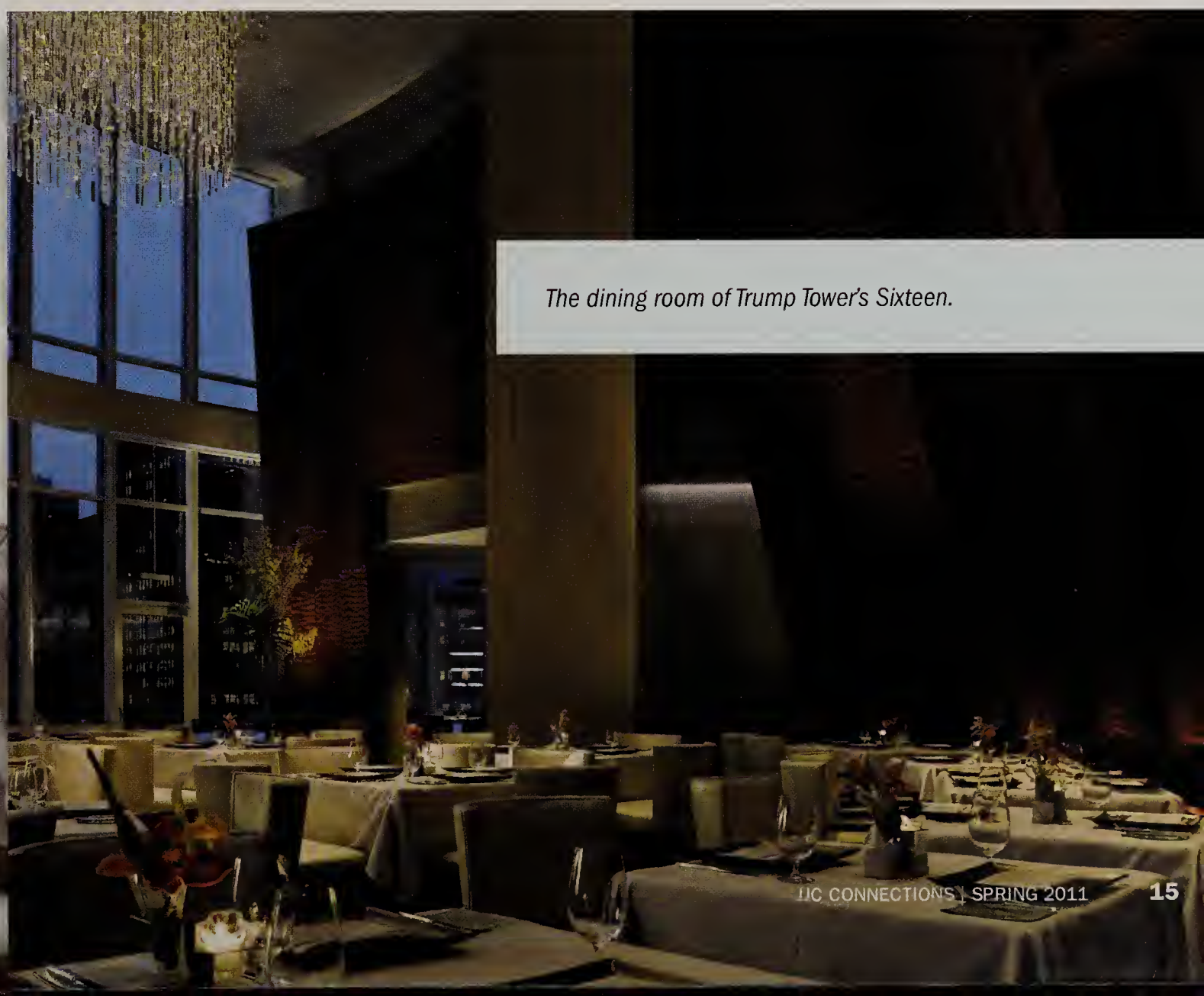
"We are always changing the menu and keeping up with the trends, so we have to keep it fresh," he says. "When I come into work I have to come up with an amuse-bouche, a little teaser to start the customer's mouth watering for the next courses."

While they feel a definitive sense of professional achievement in their current occupations, Oktayuren and Kendall still talk about their future. Their plan? To work side by side in a successful restaurant.



we have to keep it fresh." – *Ender "Andy" Oktayuren*





The dining room of Trump Tower's Sixteen.

Small Business Development Center
MAKES BIG IMPACT
on Local Business Owners

by **Kelly Rohder**



When the housing market took a downturn, Mark Scherf took a chance. He left the industry he'd known for 15 years to combine his love of music and the dream of owning a business.



Three years later, Scherf and his wife, Jenny, stand in their store, West Side Music Center, chatting about their summer music camp for area kids and the variety of music lessons they offer.

"We have everything—even accordion lessons!" Jenny exclaims.

In their Joliet store filled with guitars, saxophones and drum sets, both reveal that the success of their venture was bolstered by the help they received from Joliet Junior College's Illinois Small Business Development Center.

"We did as much research as possible," Mark Scherf said. "But the Small Business Development Center really offered us an educated second opinion."

The Illinois Small Business Development Center at JJC is one of the small business service providers in the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network, funded in part by the Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and JJC.

The Scherfs worked with SBDC business analyst Carol Turney on their business plan and financing options.

"She shared some samples, and with that help, I was able to put a business plan together," Mark says.

"Carol never let us fall between the cracks," Jenny adds.

Now, in addition to providing music lessons, West Side Music Center puts on an annual fundraiser to benefit muscular dystrophy and offers instrument sales, rental and repair—including partnering with veteran guitarist Charlie Brewer, who rents space in the store and has been repairing guitars in Joliet since 1961.

According to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, 90 percent of businesses in the state are considered small businesses. And that's why, says SBDC business analyst Brian A. Thompson '93, it's important to spend time educating clients and helping them to make better, more informed decisions.

"It's about being realistic and helping them go through different scenarios to be prepared," he adds.

And their assistance is free. The SBDC provides free support and advice to those looking to start a business, as well as to existing businesses looking to sustain or expand.

In the past year, the SBDC has held several outreach events, including seminars in disaster planning, navigating the new healthcare laws, and "Google 101," a seminar to help small business owners learn how to use Google tools to reach more customers, understand what customers are searching for, and operate more efficiently.

Thompson adds that with the current economic climate, banks tend to be more cautious about approving loans.

"That's where we can help," he says. "There are other resources available—even if that means starting smaller. It's still possible to succeed."

To learn more about the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Joliet Junior College, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/sbdc.**

Mark and Jenny Scherf work with Carol Turney and Brian Thompson of JJC's Small Business Development Center



SAVING PATIENT STAN

by **Rachel Rose**

iStan® Patient Simulator Gives Students Realistic Medical Training Experiences

As part of their clinical learning experience in the JJC nursing program, students are introduced to a patient named Stan. Throughout their four semesters of nursing classes, they tend to Stan whether he bleeds, cries, experiences a heart attack, suffers post-operative complications or a pulmonary embolism.

They perform routine assessments and procedures, which include checking his blood pressure and pulse, counting respirations, assessing his pupils' reaction to light, applying chest compressions or administering IV fluids and medications as necessary. They ask Stan questions about how he is feeling and where he feels pain or discomfort, and he responds if he is feeling well enough.



Stan may sound like a very ill patient, but in fact he is not human at all: Stan, or iStan as he is officially known, is a high fidelity human patient simulator. Currently, he is the closest thing to a human patient and perhaps the most technologically advanced and realistic training tool available to health care students today.

"We are now using iStan in every semester of the nursing program," said Professor Kathy Wolz. "It teaches the students to work in groups, to think critically, and to find out how they would react in a real patient situation. It's far more applicable than writing a paper."

iStan comes with software that allows Kelli Wall, simulation coordinator, to either run a pre-programmed patient scenario, or a unique one designed by the nursing professors or students. Any given day, the patient might range from an elderly man experiencing chest pain, or a young woman experiencing trauma after a car accident. The simulations "help them identify what their strengths and weaknesses are, and they can ask more questions until they do know," Wall said.

"I believe that working with iStan has prepared me tremendously in how I interact with patients and how I approach situations with patients," said Heidi Mesa, a 2010 nursing graduate. "It really makes you use your critical thinking skills, and shows you how well you think and react on your feet—all things that are a major part of being a nurse."

According to Wall, the reactions on students' faces after taking part in an iStan simulation tell the story of their experience—confidence, panic, serenity, anxiety, relief.

LEARNING INTERACTIVELY WITH ISTAN

In a typical simulation lab, fourth semester Nursing 260 students first get an overview of their patient: the gender, age, height, weight, vital signs, types of medications, and the procedure or disease the patient is experiencing. In the lab, they are assigned roles such as charge nurse, RN, CNA or student nurse. The instructor and simulation coordinator might play the role of the patient, a distressed family member, the doctor or the pharmacist. Students then proceed to treat the patient in the roles they are given and receive feedback accordingly: how they respond to the patient's requests or complaints, react to a distressed family member, prioritize the care process, and the thoroughness of their assessments.

"We all learned very quickly that judging another group of students was so easy to do, but quickly discovered when roles were reversed that it was a whole different ballgame when we were in the situation. It wasn't so easy to know what to do when iStan would scream out over and over again that he was in pain, even though he was just given pain medication, and his wife was upset and complaining because her husband was in pain. The experience was very humbling and made you rethink how you could approach the situation next time you encounter it."

– Nursing graduate Heidi Mesa



Nursing students experience real-life medical scenarios with iStan.

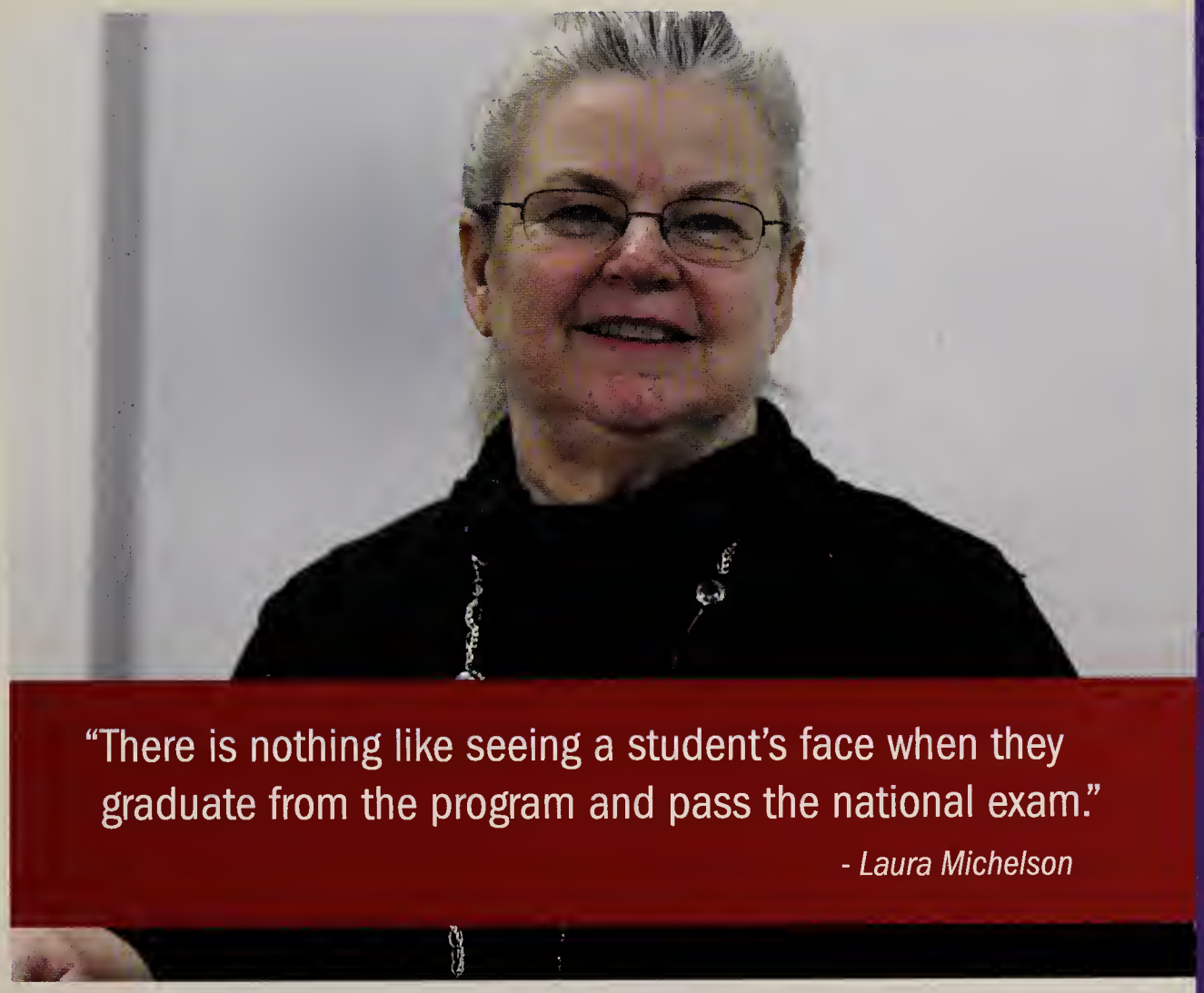
"It is wildly fun running these scenarios," she added. "The faculty are engaging and provoke the students to think, and the students are fascinating as they intently think critically."

Laura Michelson

JJC professor Laura Michelsen has been working in the health information field since 1982. She has watched the field grow from handwritten transcriptions to the use of typewriters and now the use of computers.

At the age of 48, she earned her associate degree from the College of DuPage, her bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and her master's degree from Capella University. She began teaching at JJC in 2006 after working as the director of medical records at Stateville Correctional Center.

Michelsen assisted program facilitator Debra Gaskin in the health information technology program's accreditation and was just awarded tenure in the fall of 2010.



"There is nothing like seeing a student's face when they graduate from the program and pass the national exam."

- Laura Michelson

What does it feel like having just been awarded tenure?
Accomplishing tenure was a huge milestone in my career. Throughout my career I have had to work very hard both in earning my own education and as an instructor. Receiving tenure marked all that hard work. I finally feel accepted in the field I enjoy so much.

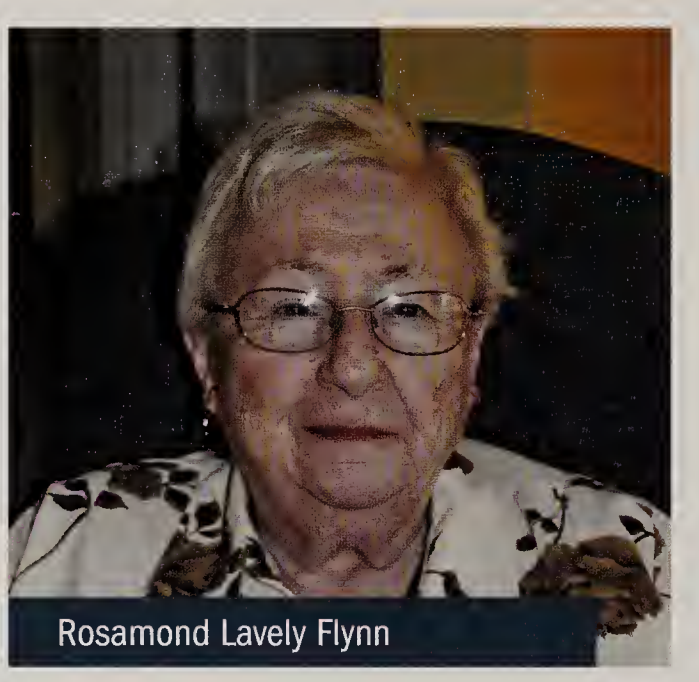
You have been working in the health information field for over 25 years. What is it about health information you enjoy?
It is difficult to put into words why I love this field so much... I love being involved with patients' medical records and seeing the changes that have been made [in the field] over the past 25 years.

What do you love about teaching in that field?
Watching a student develop and succeed through the program from start to finish. There is nothing like seeing a student's face when they graduate from the program and pass the national exam. In fact, last semester we had a student receive a 100 percent and that is on a national exam. Nothing is more rewarding than that.

You have made education a priority in your life. Why do you think it's so important to receive an e ducation?
At the age of 48, I went back to school to receive my associate degree, and then back again for my bachelor's, then once again to earn my master's degree. Having an education opens doors to opportunities you never even knew existed. Never say 'I can't do this' or 'I'm too old.' You're never too old to learn. If I did it, anyone can.

Alumni Notes




Rosamond Lavely Flynn

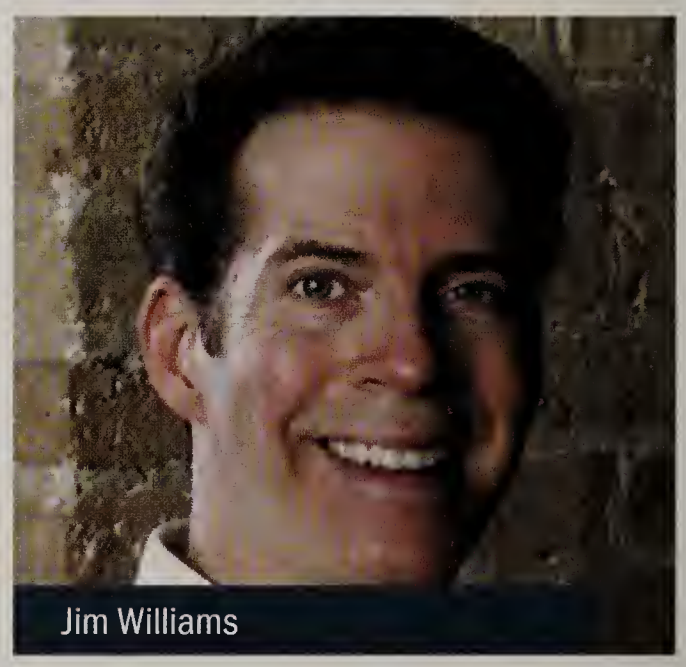
1951 **Rosamond Lavely Flynn** '51 went on to earn a doctoral degree after graduating from Joliet Junior College. Ms. Flynn was an elementary school teacher in Joliet and Rockdale for 13 years. She then became principal for Joliet Public Schools, a position she held for 25 years, until her retirement in 1991. Presently, Flynn lives in New Jersey. Several of Flynn's siblings also graduated from JJC and eventually earned doctoral degrees. Flynn states, "Without JJC, it is doubtful if any of my family would have gone as far as we have."

1972 **Nora Needy** '72 received an associate degree in education from Joliet Junior College and earned her bachelor's degree in 1985 from the University of St. Francis. Needy taught in various Lockport schools. In 1992, she joined Joliet Junior College as an adjunct instructor for the Department of Adult and Family Services.

1973 **David Baker** '73 received an associate degree in biology and health services administration from Joliet Junior College. Baker also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University and a Master of Science degree in health services administration from the University of St. Francis. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Public Health Long Term Care program for 32 years.

1975 **William Sewell** '75 earned a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. Sewell, who is founder of Sewell Consultants, Inc. in Parkland, Fla., is also a Drill Sergeant in the United States Army and a certified scuba diver. Sewell travels frequently to Asia. He says his JJC liberal arts degree empowered him to continue his education.

1981 **Mark Holmes** '81 received an associate degree in culinary arts from Joliet Junior College. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in hotel administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a master's degree in business administration (accountancy and finance) from the University of Illinois. As a CPA, Holmes has worked for a number of companies in various industries throughout the Chicago area. He is currently providing CFO advisory services to middle-market organizations as a partner with B2B CFO®.


Jim Williams

1981 **Jim Williams** '81 received an Associate in Arts and Science degree from Joliet Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College Chicago in 1983. Since then, he has worked as a graphic designer, starting his own company in 1995. Williams Communication Design is a Chicago-based design firm that helps companies develop branding and marketing communication

materials. His clients include IBM and the American Institute of Architects. Samples of Jim's design work can be found at www.willcomdes.com. He also teaches a design course each semester as an adjunct instructor at Columbia College Chicago. Jim currently lives in downtown Chicago.

1992

Amy Guertin '92 received an Associate in Arts degree from Joliet Junior College. She went to Northern Illinois University where she received a bachelor's degree in psychology. In 1998, Guertin earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from Lewis University in Romeoville. Guertin has been teaching psychology at Joliet Junior College since 2001 and at DeVry University since 2003. She plans to return to school in the summer of 2011 to earn her Ph.D.

Send us your news and notes.

Send your e-mail address, news about your family, your career, and anything else you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room J-2049
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to **alumni@jjc.edu.**

Match your Gift to JJC

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 1901– FOUNDATION

Increase your gift to Joliet Junior College through the matching gifts program. Many companies will match their employees' donations to charitable organizations.

Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, **www.jjc.edu/info/foundation** and select "Ways of Giving."

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
Fax: 815.280.6618

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
815.280.2353

Successful Connections


Donna Theimer


Kristin Mulvey

Donna Theimer, agriculture, horticulture and vet tech department chair, contributed to a new bridal book, "Bridal Flowers," written by Ginny Parfitt and published by Pennsylvania-based Schiffer Publications. Theimer wrote the introduction to the book, and several of her bouquet and boutonniere designs are featured in it. This is the second book that Theimer has worked on with Schiffer Publications—the first is "The Bridal Bouquet Book."

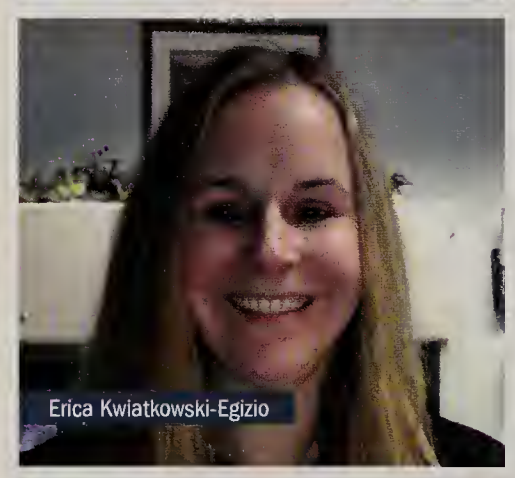
Jewell Dennis, Project Achieve director, and her staff received a five-year, $2 million TRIO grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Services Program. The grant money will support the college's Project Achieve Office, which provides academic and other support services to low-income, first-generation or disabled college students to increase student retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low-income and first generation college students and individuals with disabilities.

Kristin Mulvey, director of institutional advancement, was given the national Campus Impact Award for Private Fundraising Professional by the Council for Resource Development on Nov. 5 in Washington, D.C.

John H. Weitendorf Jr., JJC Foundation president, was awarded the Council for Resource Development's Community College Benefactors Award—the only national recognition of philanthropists to two-year higher education institutions—on Nov. 5 in Washington, D.C.

JJC math professor **Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio** made two presentations at the 36th Annual American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference in Boston, Mass., in November. The presentations were titled, "Building Conceptual Understanding in Developmental Mathematics" and "Integrating Math Concepts in Culinary: Secret Ingredients for Success."

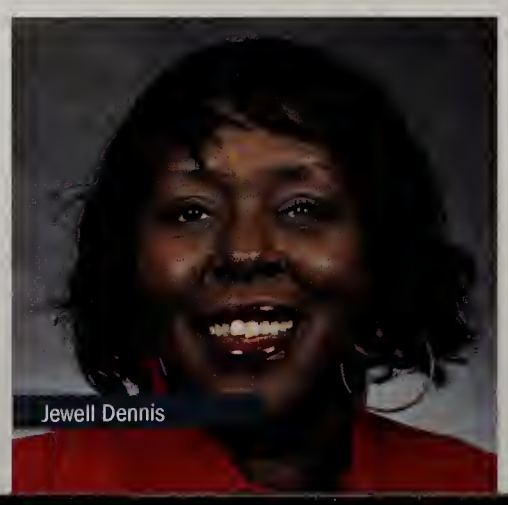

John H. Weitendorf Jr.


Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio

Philip Spencer, professor of music, was recently named artistic director of the new "Festival of American and Global Vocal Music" for high school youth in Wittenberg, Germany. The festival will be held from July 27 to Aug. 9, 2011. Sponsored by the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America—which was founded by Spencer in 2005—and co-sponsored by the ELCA's Wittenberg Center and the International YMCA, the festival will be held at a restored medieval castle outside of Wittenberg.

Julio Santiago, assistant professor of nursing, was elected as a director-at-large for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing during its 2010 Delegate Assembly. Santiago is also the chairperson of the Illinois Board of Nursing, which he has served on since 2005. The Illinois Board of Nursing is the state government agency established by law to protect the public by regulating the practice of nurses in the state of Illinois. Members of the board are appointed by the governor.

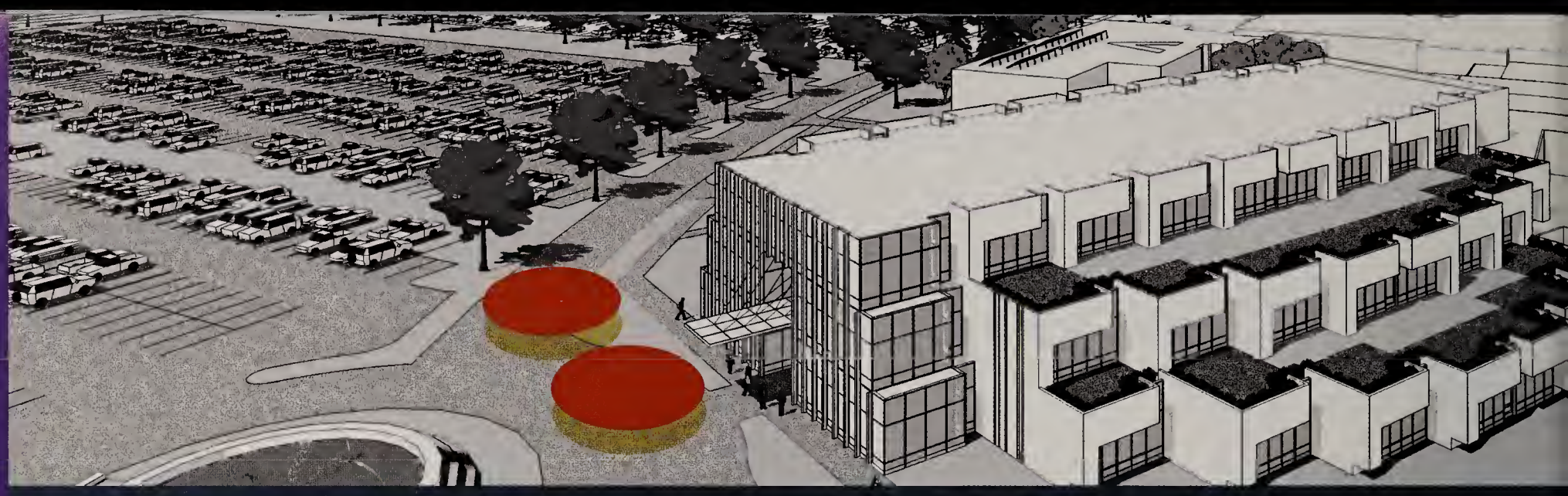

Julio Santiago


Jewell Dennis


Philip Spencer



2010 Annual Report



Next to the new Campus Center and deep under ground, 84 wells each 500 feet deep will use virtually unchanging ground temperatures to efficiently heat the Campus Center in winter and cool it in the summer.

Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Financial Highlights

- The district's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net assets increased 9.1 percent over the course of the year. New construction in the district has increased the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) by 0.4 percent and property tax revenue by 14.0 percent in fiscal 2010. 12.4% of the property tax revenue increase was due to the successful building bond referendum.
- Overall revenues were $136.7 million, $7.1 million more than expenses.
- Enrollment and tuition revenue increased by 18.9 percent.
- Total costs increased by approximately 22.5 percent because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, interest expense attributed to the $89 million bond issue in 2009 and the $70 million bond issue in 2008, student financial aid passed through the District, and the on-behalf pension contribution from the state of Illinois.
- $89 million in general obligation bonds were issued to fund projects that support the creation of new jobs in high growth industries in the district.
- Enrollment and tuition revenue increased by 18.9 percent

JJC Financial Fast Facts

- A JJC graduate can expect to earn $900,000 more than a high school graduate over the course of his/her working lifetime.
- JJC's operating expenditures in the district produce over $5 million in output, resulting in a total economic impact of nearly $15 million.
- It is estimated the current Facilities Master Plan will generate 8,000 new jobs in the district through the direct and indirect impacts of construction and the college's ability to produce more graduates.
- The average full-time JJC student can save $14,000 by attending JJC for the first two years of college instead of a four-year public university and nearly $40,000 over a four-year private university.
- JJC awards over $18 million annually in federal, state, and institutional financial aid. Nearly 70 percent of that amount is made in the form of non-repayable grants and tuition waivers.
- Thousands of students receive financial aid based on need every year at JJC. In 2010, JJC awarded over 3,600 federal Pell Grants and nearly 1,900 state MAP grants.
- A renegotiated agreement with MidAmerican Energy Services, resulting in an estimated savings of $113,000 annually at JJC.
- JJC recently received an upgrade in its bond rating from AA- to AA.
- JJC has received the Government Financial Officers Association Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) award.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2010	2009	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$214.5	$135.0	$79.5	58.9%
Capital Assest, Net	69.9	47.6	22.3	46.8%
Total Assets	284.4	182.6	101.8	55.8%
Current Liabilities	32.7	26.6	6.1	22.9%
Long-Term Liabilities	166.5	77.9	88.6	113.7%
Total Liabilities	199.2	104.5	94.7	90.6%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	33.5	34.8	0.7	2.0%
Restricted	14.1	11.1	3.0	27.0%
Unrestricted	35.6	32.2	3.4	10.6%
Total Net Assets	**$85.2**	**$78.1**	**$7.1**	**9.1%**

Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

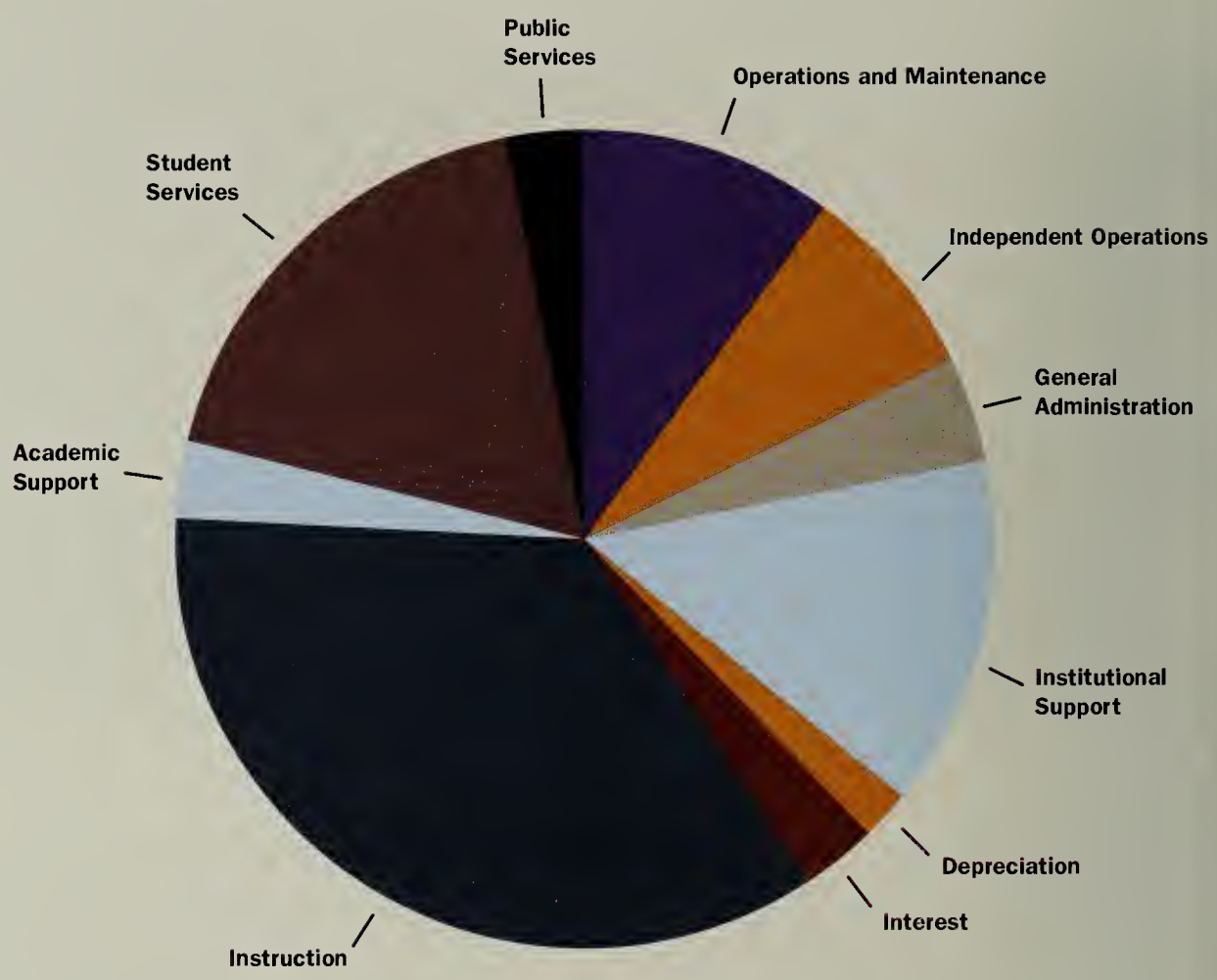
The total cost of all programs and services was $129.6 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $71.8 million or 55 percent of total expenses.

	2010	2009	Increase/Decrease	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$32.7	$27.5	$5.2	18.9%
Sales & Service Fees	8.9	7.8	1.1	14.1%
Miscellaneous	1.5	1.9	0.4	-21.1%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	45.5	39.9	5.6	14.0%
State & Federal Sources	43.8	30.9	12.9	41.7%
Other	4.3	4.0	(0.3)	7.5%
Total Revenues	**$136.7**	**$112.0**	**$24.7**	**22.1%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	40.1	37.2	2.9	7.8%
Academic Support	3.1	3.0	0.1	3.3%
Student Services	25.6	18.5	7.1	38.4%
Public Services	3.0	2.9	0.1	3.4%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	13.1	10.7	2.4	22.4%
Independent Operations	9.3	8.6	0.7	8.1%
General Administration	4.3	4.2	0.1	2.4%
Institutional Support	19.0	15.1	3.9	25.8%
Depreciation	3.0	2.6	0.4	15.4%
Interest	9.1	3.0	6.1	203.3%
Total Expenses	**$129.6**	**$105.8**	**$23.8**	**22.5%**
Increase in Net Assets	**$7.1**	**$6.2**	**$0.9**	
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$78.1**	**$71.9**		
End of Year	**$85.2**	**$78.1**		

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.**

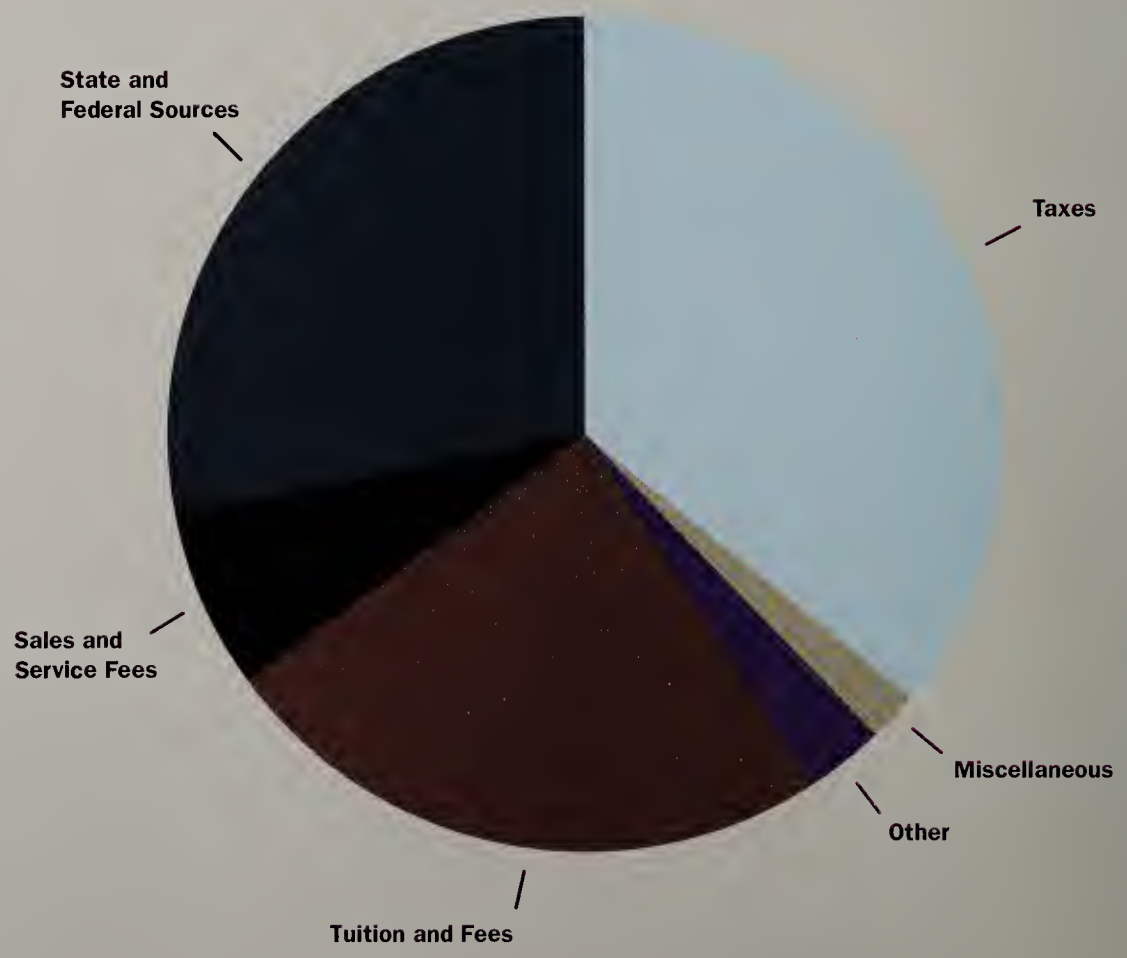
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2010

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	10%
Independent Operations	7%
General Administration	3%
Institutional Support	15%
Depreciation	2%
Interest	7%
Instruction	32%
Academic Support	2%
Student Services	20%
Public Services	2%



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2010

Taxes	33%
Miscellaneous	1%
Other	3%
Tuition and Fees	24%
Sales and Service Fees	7%
State and Federal Sources	32%



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Michael P. Guglielmucci

Foundation President

On behalf of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Joliet Junior College Foundation. Despite a struggling economy, the Foundation continues to provide scholarships and grants that fund equipment and programs that support JJC students and the college's mission.

This year, the foundation awarded nearly $670,000 in scholarships—an amazing figure considering the difficult financial situations facing many in our community. In addition to fundraising, we are also working closely with college leaders to identify partners that will support the college's Master Plan.

Because of your generous philanthropy, JJC continues to be an accessible resource for the community. Thank you.

For more information about gift opportunities, contact Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/foundation.**

Sincerely,

Michael P. Guglielmucci
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2010 and 2009]

	2010	2009
Total Current Assets	$13,725,103	$12,501,436
Capital Assets, Net	905	905
Total Assets	13,726,008	12,502,341
Total Current Liabilities	49,321	2,578
Total Net Assets	13,676,687	12,499,763
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	13,726,008	12,502,341

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2010 and 2009]

	2010	2009
Total Revenues	$2,175,849	$(1,697,900)
Total Expenses	998,925	1,018,480
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	12,499,763	15,216,143
End of Fiscal Year	13,676,687	12,499,763
Endowment	9,305,477	9,273,559
Investments	13,676,881	12,081,331
Annual Contributions	745,456	780,960
Scholarships Awarded	668,043	712,509



by **Ericka Wellner**

PLASTIC GAMES

Game Design Contest Offers Students Competitive Advantage

For students like Brian Edwards, gaming is much more than invading enemy territory like in the popular game *Call of Duty* or harvesting crops and tending to livestock in Facebook's social game, *Farmville*. For Edwards, playing video games is just another day at the office.

Edwards is more interested in the behind the scenes of the gaming industry, he explains, more specifically coding; however, when Edwards first enrolled at Joliet Junior College in 2000, the college did not offer a gaming program like it does today.

"When I enrolled again last fall I was excited to see the program had been added and I enrolled in it right away," he says.

Gaming is an industry that is on the rise, says Angela Sullivan, associate professor of Computer Information and Office Systems (CIOS). Much more than just entertainment, gaming is now used in other fields including education, job training, and the medical field.

Along with the game design program, which was added in 2006, JJC has also developed a game design contest. The contest will give students like Edwards a competitive edge in preparation for a future career.

"I'm very excited to compete in the contest," Edwards says. "I'm excited to apply and demonstrate what I've learned in class. It's an opportunity to create a game in its entirety—from start to finish."

Not only will the contest give students experience in game development, it will also be something to add to a resume, says Sullivan.

The new contest was created thanks to a $3,000 grant awarded from the JJC Foundation through its Awards for Excellence program, which provides up to $30,000 biannually for projects that are not included in the college's usual budget process. The grant money will provide for everything from flyers to an award ceremony and goodie bags, Sullivan says.

The CIOS department also offers a web design contest. Like the game design contest, the web design contest was also developed using funds granted from Awards for Excellence. Both the web and game contests give students experience needed to help further their careers in the field. The contest is entering its 11th annual competition.

"I'm excited to apply and demonstrate what I've learned in class. It's an opportunity to create a game in its entirety—from start to finish." - *Brian Edwards*

To learn about the game and web design contests, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/cios.**

Upcoming Events at JJC

Mark Your Calendar

for the Joliet Junior College
Alumni Association's

30th Annual Alumni Brunch
Sunday, June 12
11 a.m.

Renaissance Center
214 North Ottawa Street
Joliet, Ill. 60432

Cost is $30 per person.
For more information,
call (815) 280-2328.



Thursday, April 7, 2011

12th Annual Joliet Regional Job Fair
2:00 P.M. – Renaissance Center

Saturday, April 30, 2011

5K Run/Walk
8:00 A.M. – Main Campus

Friday, May 13, 2011

Spring Commencement
6:00 P.M. – Lewis University Fieldhouse

Check www.jjc.edu/info/events for up-to-date information on events.

JJC is GOING GREEN!

JJC is committed to sustainable practices that support the college's strategic goal of environmental stewardship.

As part of that commitment, this magazine is printed on FSC-certified paper and is also readable in an electronic format at **www.jjc.edu/info/magazine.**

Chuck Morgan, - JJC Music Professor



CULTURE AT JJC!

Every year, the Fine Arts Department offers a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. With excellent theatre productions, must-see art gallery openings and nationally recognized musical offerings, the college is a cultural destination in the Chicagoland area.

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

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Joliet, IL 60431-8938

For Carletta Seay, a 2000 graduate of Joliet Junior College, it was the college's family atmosphere that brought her to JJC in 1998 and has kept her involved ever since.

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET
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ALUMNI RELATIONS



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CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine



In Memoriam

JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx

Campus Center to be named after late leader

Streamlining Student Services
- Campus Center Opens

Automotive Expansion
- New State-of-the-Art Facility Addresses Area Job Shortages

New Library Opens to Students, Community

FALL 2011

FIND YOUR CAREER AT JJC:



Automotive

Earn a degree from JJC's automotive technology program and prepare for a career in a field that's growing across the nation.

JJC offers a degree and several certificates in automotive service technology, boasting one of the nation's few ASE/NATEF certified master automotive programs. Learn from experienced instructors and train in state-of-the-art facilities as you develop the skills you need for a successful career.

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New automotive expansion now open for classes!

Visit jjc.edu or call (815) 729-9020



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Honoring JJC's History: Relocating Historical Roots

This summer, JJC relocated its alumni bell tower and commemorative paver bricks to the front of the Campus Center.



In Memoriam: JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx

JJC's seventh president Dr. Gena Proulx passed away Aug. 12 after a courageous battle with cancer. In her honor, the new Campus Center has been named after her.



Streamlining Student Services: Campus Center Opens

For Joliet Junior College, the completion and opening of the Campus Center is the realization of a goal many years in the making.



State-of-the-Art Automotive Facility Addresses Area Job Shortages

The new 17,000 sq. ft. expansion complete with a commercial automotive shop will help JJC address critical job shortages in the field.



New Library Opens to Students, Community

Open 75 hours a week with 40 public computers, the JJC library is a convenient resource for not only students but community members as well.

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CONNECTIONS



A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

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The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am excited to write to you as Joliet Junior College's new Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager. For those of you who receive our e-Connections newsletter,* you have been hearing from me monthly since July. I have encouraged you to contact me to talk about your experience as one of our alumni; I hope you have taken me up on that offer.

I feel fortunate that JJC has played a significant role in my personal history. Born and raised in Joliet, I vividly remember attending graduation when two of my sisters received their associate degrees from JJC. I was lucky enough to attend school here before transferring to University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. When I returned to the college four years ago to begin my career, it was exciting. People still hung out on the bridge between classes, many of my previous professors were still teaching, and the campus was still as beautiful as ever. The only problem was that while the student population had grown tremendously, the college was physically the same as I had left it eight years before.

The transformation of the campus since I began working at JJC has been amazing. The college's master plan has brought about new buildings and restoration of natural areas. This change supports the growth of the college. In a tough economy, students graduating high school cannot afford to go away to college, and adults who have lost their jobs must search for new careers and new training in order to reenter the workforce. This is what the master plan is all about.

In 2010, the American Association of Community Colleges led an effort designed to ensure the success of the American public by producing 50% more students with high-quality degrees and certificates by 2020. This Completion Agenda is the responsibility of the educational institutions in our country. This issue of *Connections* is letting you know what JJC is doing to embed this agenda into the institutional plans that were already taking shape at the college. The Campus Center, which serves as the new front door to the college, allows for all student service offices to be together; this makes it easy for our students to navigate the admissions and registration process. The automotive technology expansion, greenhouse facility, health professions building, and natural sciences expansion enhance the instructional programs at JJC, providing state-of-the-art facilities in which our students can learn.

I have been lucky to see the growth right before my eyes. If you live in the area or come back for a visit, I encourage you to drive onto the campus to take a look. You will be amazed at the changes the campus is undergoing. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to visit www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect to update your personal information, so we can keep you informed on all the college is doing to support the Completion Agenda.

Best,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

**If you would like to receive our monthly e-Connections newsletter, please update your personal alumni information and include your email address at www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect.*

News Briefs



Interim JJC President Frank Zeller speaks with Illinois Lt. Governor Shelia Simon during her visit to the college Sept. 22.

Zeller Appointed Interim President

Following the death of President Gena Proulx on Aug. 12, the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Frank Zeller as the college's interim president.

Zeller's appointment was approved by the board after Proulx, JJC president since 2006, lost her three-year battle with cancer. Zeller, of Peru, was initially hired earlier the same month to serve as an interim senior executive to oversee day-to-day college operations while President Proulx was on sick leave. Now, he will serve as JJC's interim president while the college conducts a nationwide presidential search.

Zeller has worked at JJC before, once in 2001 with then-president J.D. Ross as the college celebrated its 100th anniversary and again in 2010 with Dr. Proulx, both in the position of interim vice president of administrative services.

"I'm pleased to be here and work with the Joliet Junior College family again," Zeller said. "I think it's important to keep the college going in the direction Dr. Proulx would want, continuing to streamline student services and providing the space necessary for programs that address job shortages in our communities."

Zeller added that in the last three years, the college campus increased its square footage by over 50 percent, space that he said is vital to provide the necessary educational and job training opportunities that are so intrinsic to the college's mission.

No stranger to higher education in Illinois, Zeller served for 27 years as chief financial officer of Illinois Valley Community College before retiring in 2000. He holds a bachelor's degree from Lewis University, a master's degree and a doctorate in school business management from Northern Illinois University.

Floral Team Wins National Competition

Earlier this summer, two students from Joliet Junior College triumphed in the National American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) competition, placing first in the nation. The contest was held in San Francisco, in early July.

Both Kathrynn Wahl of New Lenox and Betsy Cangiano of Oswego tied for first place for overall designer of the year. Wahl also placed first in bridal bouquet and Cangiano in banquet design.

"The event made history," said Donna Theimer, JJC professor and department chair of agriculture, horticulture and veterinary medical technology. "For the first time in the competition, two students from the same college tied for first place."

JJC also brought home six additional awards. Cangiano placed second in sweetheart table design and eighth in bridal bouquet. Wahl placed third in banquet design, ninth in napkin design and 10th in sweetheart design and Kaitlyn Harlow of Kinsman placed fourth in sweetheart table design.



Left to right: Kathrynn Wahl, Betsy Cangiano, Diane Chamberlin and Kaitlyn Harlow.



Left to right: Fashion designer and guest judge Joe Katz, JJC culinary grad and lab assistant Heather Schreiner, judge Kerry Vincent and Chef Andy Chlebana.



The Food Network Challenge set.

Diane Chamberlain of New Lenox was also a part of the team.

The competition consists of four categories including bridal bouquet, banquet design, sweetheart table design and napkin design. The students have one hour to create and complete a design in each category with the exception of napkin design, which takes place in a 45-minute session.

Each category was judged on methodical use of color, depth, line, balance, focal emphasis, unity and proportion. Points are also awarded for flawless mechanics, appropriate interpretation for the category and creativity.

JJC Chef Wins Food Network Challenge

Joliet Junior College Chef Andy Chlebana won the Food Network Challenge in an episode that aired on the network on April 24.

In the show, Chlebana competed against two other chefs to successfully create a dress made of sugar. Chlebana, of Plainfield, was joined by his lab assistant and 2009 JJC alumna Heather Schreiner of Minooka, who flew with him to Denver in November 2010 to tape the show.

The theme of the show was Sugar Fashion, which means each contestant must create fashionable ensembles and accessories for four mannequins, all of which must be made of sugar.

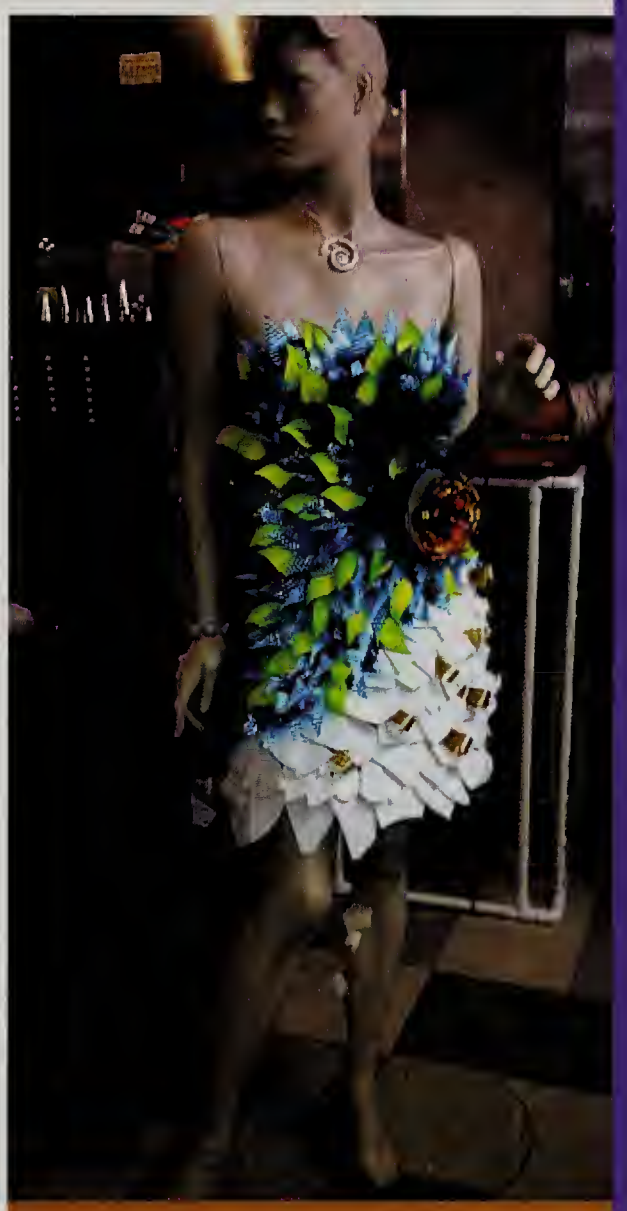
But creating the dress wasn't the only challenge–they had to transport the piece–made of hundreds of delicate, multi-colored petals–four miles from where they built it to display in a storefront window.

In addition to bragging rights, Chlebana, a 1995 JJC alumnus, also won $10,000 for winning the contest, which he said he'll use to take his family to Disney World.

"I've never heard them scream so loud," Chlebana told the Channahon-Minooka Patch as he watched the show Sunday night with his wife Heather and twin daughters Abigail and Annabel, 8, and sons Andy, 7, and Adler, 3.

Chlebana was chosen by Food Network producers after sending in a video application that addressed why he should be featured on the show.

In 2008, Chlebana was honored by the American Culinary Federation as its National Pastry Chef of the Year.



Chef Chlebana's winning creation, a dress made entirely of sugar.

Angie Kaysen Luzbetak

Q&A with Dr. Angie Kaysen Luzbetak, Coordinator of Transfer Articulation

Can you describe your role as a JJC coordinator of transfer articulation?
My position is housed in Student Development. I am a member of the Counseling Department staff, but my position is unique. I work with the academic side of the house, with partnering colleges and universities. JJC offers a variety of fantastic academic programs and my position helps maintain articulation agreements. Articulation agreements are academic agreements with specific academic majors at the four-year colleges. One of things I most enjoy about my position is the collaborative spirit generated by such agreements. I work closely with JJC faculty as well as faculty and staff at the colleges in maintaining and creating agreements. This allows me to form close and personal relationships with JJC's college partners. As a member of the Counseling Department I keep counseling and advisors abreast of new agreements, changes in existing agreements, but also inform them of new major opportunities, curriculum requirements and changes at the four-year institutions.



"I believe in helping students achieve their goals-- as diverse as they may be. Not every student needs or wants a degree, but I want to be part of an institution that believes in inspiring and elevating people. That is JJC."

You are a JJC alumna. What role, if any, did your experiences here play in determining your own career path?
My academic background and career path is interesting. Student Development was not my intended career. I was a pre-law major as an undergrad. Having a passion for serving people and advocating for them is in my blood. However, I learned that there are many ways to fulfill this passion. In fact, it was a JJC counselor that inspired me to change my career path. We were not talking about majors or even college-- we were discussing life and the various paths people take to fulfill dreams.

I went on to earn a master's degree in counseling and did some work in a private practice. Eventually, I was called to continue serving community college

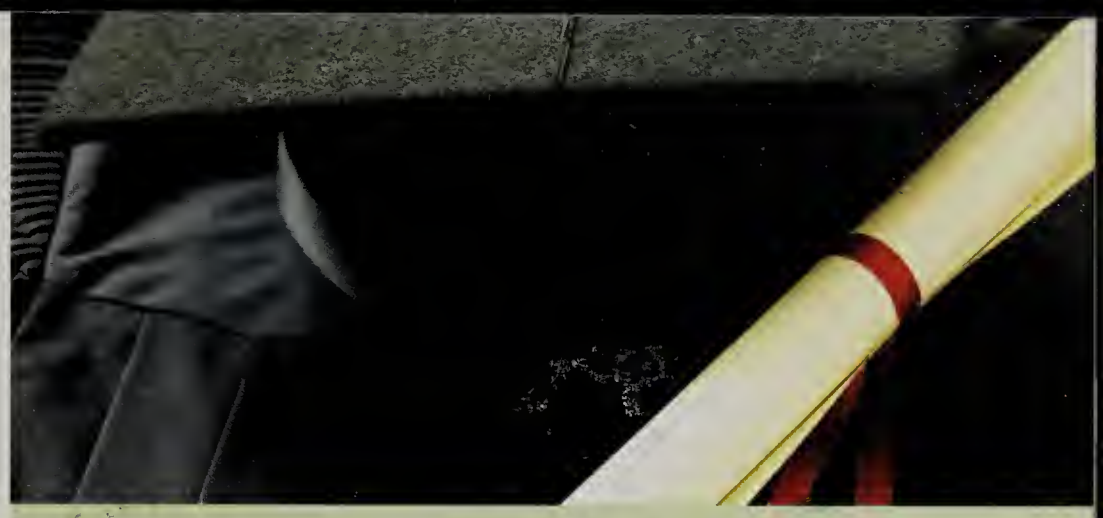
students and returned to JJC. In 2010, I earned a doctorate in education for community college leadership. I feel strongly about the mission and vision of community colleges. I believe in helping students achieve their goals– as diverse as they may be. Not every student needs or wants a degree, but I want to be part of an institution that believes in inspiring and elevating people. That is JJC.

How does JJC demonstrate a commitment to student success?
Having worked in other places and in other fields I have a great appreciation and admiration for everyone that inspires students at JJC. Every person employed at the college has a vested interest in the life and career path of our students. Don't discount anyone– from the director of student activities, the cashier in the cafeteria, the custodian or the president–each and every person is there to help students on their journey. What you have at JJC is the most dedicated faculty and staff, who will take the time to talk with you.

"Dream big, think big and regardless of where your starting point is, don't underestimate where JJC can help you go."

How have the recent campus improvements made it easier for students to navigate their collegiate path?
I cannot express my excitement regarding the new facilities at JJC. The Campus Center is extraordinary. I am thrilled that students will have all of the necessary support services at their fingertips. There is access to every service they might need. The Campus Center also has a must-see library! JJC students deserve fantastic facilities because we have fantastic faculty and staff! We are the complete package!

What advice would you give to students looking to transfer?
The advice I would give transfer students is the same advice I would give any student. You might not know your path, or have a major or firm direction as of yet. You need to talk and think about your passion. Dream big, think big and regardless of where your starting point is, don't underestimate where JJC can help you go. Spend some time just talking to people you respect. Transferring isn't the finish line– it is the beginning. I encourage students, their families and/or care givers to start talking about college early. Take the time to dream!



Prepare for a seamless transfer

Students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university can plan on a smooth transition when they start at JJC. Plus, students can save up to $40,000 over a four-year private school when they complete the first two years of college at JJC.

These are just some of the colleges and universities that JJC students transfer to:

- Aurora University
- Bradley University
- Columbia College
- Eastern Illinois University
- Ferris State University
- Franklin University
- Governors State University
- Illinois Institute of Art – Schaumburg
- Illinois State University
- Kaplan University
- Lewis University
- McKendree University
- North Central
- Northern Illinois University
- Purdue University – Calumet
- Saint Xavier University
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- University of Illinois - Chicago
- University of St. Francis
- Western Illinois University



Karl Brooks

JJC Dean of Student Success Karl Brooks, who has been with the college since March of 2008, explains how JJC strives to help all its students succeed through a wide variety of programs and services.

What is your role at JJC?
My role as one of the deans in the student development division is to support the retention of JJC students and ensure that they have the programs, services and accommodations they need in order to succeed. As dean of student success, I oversee the departments of Academic Skills, Counseling and Advising, Career Services, Student Accommodations and Resources (StAR), Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA), Project Achieve, as well as the areas of general student development and the transfer program. Our mission is to keep our students here at JJC and help them identify clear, successive pathways to achieving their goals.

What services or programs are available at JJC to help students succeed?
JJC has a diverse range of support services, and it depends on the student and their individual needs as to which service is best for them. Counseling and career services are critical to the success of every student, since these areas help students explore their interests and strengths and discover the possibilities for their academic pathway and a future career. StAR, for example, is a vital service for our student population with special needs, providing them with tools and resources to do well in the classroom. Other populations such as first-generation or non-native English speaking students can find resources tailored specifically for them in programs such as OMSA or Project Achieve. As an institution, it's our job to ensure that students and their families not only have the services they need to help them succeed, but know about them; I never want to hear a student say, "I didn't know" that assistance is available to them at JJC!

How do you think the new Campus Center will help in improving the way JJC serves students?
The new Campus Center provides easy, streamlined access to vital student services, and having a central location for these departments also increases collaboration among the faculty and staff whose job it is to help our students do well in college. As soon as you walk into the building you'll see the Enrollment Center on the right, with admissions, financial aid and registration – the place where all our students need to start. As you walk down the hallway, or what is known as the Student Street, students will see the other key programs that are here to help them succeed at JJC such as Career Services, Counseling, OMSA, Academic Skills, Project Achieve and StAR. And that's the message we wanted to send by designing the building this way: the success of our students is the main priority at JJC.

What drives you personally in your work at JJC?
First and foremost, my personal mission is about making sure this institution meets its goals of helping students be successful and supporting them in their educational journey. I enjoy helping students discover who they are and figure out how they are going to be a contributing member of society, both while in college and afterward.

Can you share a particular success story that means a lot to you?
We've seen so many success stories here: so many students come to us without direction or in need of guidance and assistance, and we've seen them through to become confident, successful graduates who have gone on to great things. One that particularly stands out to me is the story of a young man whose mother called me very angry, demanding to know why her son had been placed in developmental classes and why he would not be earning credit for those classes. I explained to her that this is where he needed to be placed based on his test results, and that this was for his benefit – he needed to take these classes first in order to move up and do well in other classes. I told her it was our goal to see him be successful, and promised that I would personally see him through the process and help him reach his goals at JJC. Three years later, that young man graduated from JJC with an A.A. degree and transferred to University of St. Francis to complete his bachelor's degree. Watching him walk across the graduation stage was a proud moment for me and especially his mother, who hugged me afterwards and couldn't wait to introduce me to the rest of her family. It is stories like these that make my job so rewarding.

To Whom It May Concern...

Teacher Inspires Student to Write Novel

by **Ericka Wellner**



There was a time in Nadia Dunlap's life that was rooted in depression. She was unable to afford textbooks and was mustering through financial strife, a life-saving surgery and the death of her grandmother all at once.

But relief came in 2009, when she met her criminal justice instructor Kim Karlberg.

"I needed something good to happen," says Dunlap. "And that good thing was walking into Mrs. Karlberg's office."

She was taking an online course with Karlberg and as midterms approached, she needed to borrow a textbook. The two had never met so it was a surprise to Dunlap when—while introducing herself—Karlberg recognized her name from the class's message board.

Like each of the students taking the course, Dunlap had been responding to questions posed on message boards, but unlike the other students she was answering short essay questions with elaborate scenarios, characters and plots.

And so Karlberg suggested Dunlap write a novel, based on her class writings.

"I felt as though she could help so many people ... she has over came so much adversity in her life that her stories must be shared for others to learn how to overcome the same," Karberg says.

That following summer, Dunlap began her writing "To Whom it May Concern ... In the Struggle"—a compilation of stories about personal strife.

Though Dunlap was struggling through personal anguish of her own, her stories are fictitious. Writing them, she says, was therapeutic.

"The hardest part of beginning the process was learning to believe in myself," she says. "I had totally given up but Mrs. Karlberg gave me a reason to believe again. I needed something good to happen and that good thing was walking into her office."

Dunlap spent the next year and a half writing, editing and publishing her novel.

> "Her writing style is unlike any ... I have ever read. It shouted, 'I'm going to be a great writer!'"
>
> - Kim Karlberg
> Criminal Justice Instructor

"I was shocked when reading her discussion boards. They were such powerful and fulfilling writings," Karlberg says. "Her writing style is unlike any ... I have ever read. It shouted, 'I'm going to be a great writer!'"

"You can let pain do one of two things, bring you down or be your motivation and it has made me want to help people," says Dunlap. "I've been blessed with the opportunity to write this book. I've always wanted a "Cinderella" story of my own and this has been it."



Honoring JJC's History

Relocating Historical Roots

by **Rachel Rose**



As the ongoing construction of new buildings and parking lots on Main Campus signifies an exciting time of growth and expansion at JJC, the college is honoring its historical roots with the relocation of the alumni bell to the front of the Campus Center.

Formerly tucked away in a wooded nook by the JJC Lake, the alumni bell and its inspiring story was relatively unknown at JJC until 2009 when it was incorporated in the redesign of the college logo. A detailed history of the bell, which came to the college in 1969 thanks to the tireless dedication of alumni and college administrator Bill Glasscock, was published in the fall 2009 edition of *Connections*.

"I can't tell you how delighted I am to learn that the bell and its tower was chosen for the college logo," said Robert Glasscock, son of Bill Glasscock. "The Glasscock family will always think of the bell as our father's memorial."

Recognizing the significance of the bell as a symbol of the dedication of JJC's alumni and a historical artifact for the local community (it had previously hung for decades in the old Will County Courthouse), college administration and the Board of Trustees made the decision to relocate the bell to a place of honor and prominence in front of the new Campus Center.

After being removed from its old location, the bell was sent away for refurbishing and a fresh coat of paint before it was installed in its new location in July 2011. It also tolls on the hour throughout the day.

In addition, the college's commemorative paver bricks, originally introduced in 2001 as part of JJC's centennial celebrations, have been relocated to the area surrounding the bell tower. The bricks can be purchased through the JJC Foundation and can be inscribed for a special memorial or to honor a significant achievement, such as graduation from JJC.

A rededication event for the alumni bell and the paver bricks was held on Sept. 15 as part of the grand opening celebrations for the Campus Center.

"The rededication of the alumni bell and the paver bricks marks an important milestone for JJC's future as we honor our past," said Kristi Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation. "Our strongly supportive alumni and friends of the college enable us to meet the needs of students and prepare for future growth. We're pleased to know that our historic alumni bell will now be one of the first things our visitors and students see when they come to Main Campus."

COMMEMORATIVE PAVER BRICKS

To purchase a commemorative paver brick, please contact the JJC Foundation at (815) 280-2353 or visit jjc.edu/info/foundation.



IN MEMORIAM

JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx

by **Kelly Rohder**



Though much of the 2010-2011 school year brought about anticipated and oftentimes exciting change, the death of JJC President Gena Proulx was a somber, and for some, an unexpected event.

Diagnosed in 2008 with fallopian tube cancer, Proulx rarely let the disease slow her down, working until just weeks before her death Aug. 12 at age 66. She is survived by her husband, Bill; three adult daughters, Noreen, Nicole and Gisele; her mother, Irene, and her brother Gene.

The college held a memorial Aug. 15, which drew a few hundred campus community members and included remarks from JJC Board of Trustees Chair Barbara DeLaney; Dr. Robert Marcink, faculty union president and English professor; Dr. Christine Sobek, Waubonsee Community College president; and Dr. Michael Vinciguerra, University of St. Francis president. The remembrance, which was held in front of the alumni bell tower outside the Campus Center, concluded with the release of butterflies.

"It's so clear that Gena's vision and leadership over the last five years have made Joliet Junior College a better place," DeLaney said at the memorial. "She was the college's greatest advocate, and for that, we are grateful."

Proulx began her tenure as the seventh president of Joliet Junior College in July 2006. The first woman to hold the position, she came to JJC after serving six years as president of Dundalk and Essex campuses at The Community College of Baltimore County. She brought over 20 years of teaching experience in the higher education arena and was attracted to JJC, the first public community college in the nation, because of its historical roots.

Proulx devoted the majority of her career to community colleges, holding faculty and administrative posts at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, Genesee Community College in Batavia, N.Y. and Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh, N.Y. before coming to JJC.

In 2008, Proulx spearheaded the college's master plan, which came to constitute the largest physical changes to the Main Campus location in its 40-year existence. Through her vision and leadership, seven major construction projects have taken shape across the college landscape to streamline student services and provide the space for programs and training to address critical job shortages. In September, the Board of Trustees voted to name the Campus Center in Proulx's honor.

"She and her team were able to develop a master plan and successfully pass a referendum which has led us to where we are today, with her dream of a space where the students could easily, successfully and efficiently be served in one area of the college," Joan Tierney, senior executive assistant to the president, said.

"She was so proud of our new Campus Center and looked so forward to seeing the students settle in and enjoy the new facility."

During her time at JJC, Proulx was also a strong supporter of the college's chapter of the international honors society, Phi Theta Kappa. Her support of Phi Theta Kappa extended well before her years in Joliet, when she was honored with the Regional Coordinator's Award in 2004 and the Center for Excellence Brick Recognition in 2001 while at the Community College of Baltimore County.

"Gena's enthusiasm for JJC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter has had a tremendous impact on our students," Lisa Sandoval, Phi Theta Kappa adviser and JJC English professor, said. "I am especially thankful for the time she personally spent with our officers, encouraging and inspiring them. Her pride in their accomplishments was motivational and contagious."

Proulx also brought sustainability to the forefront at JJC, helping to make it part of the college's strategic plan and supporting the creation of the first-ever JJC Sustainability Committee. In 2009, she signed the historic American College and University







Presidents' Climate Commitment, an effort by institutions across the country to address global climate disruption, eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from campus operations, and educate students in the process.

That year, she wrote a guest column for the American Council on Education, stating, "Signing the Presidents Climate Commitment is more than a simple act of endorsement. It is recognition of the important role higher education plays in affecting climate change. With more than 11 million students enrolled in two-year institutions throughout the country, community colleges are in an unprecedented position to reach and influence their students on the issue of climate change."

This dynamic resume matched her active role in the community and in regional and national organizations, where she was a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Commission on Communication and Marketing, served on the Board of Directors for Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, the Will County Center for Economic Development, the Will County Workforce Investment Board, and maintained membership in the Joliet Rotary Club.

Proulx was an ardent supporter of cancer research well before her diagnosis, participating in community events like the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and after her diagnosis, making donations to the Loyola University Cancer Center where she received care. She also donated the wigs she wore during the first year she underwent chemotherapy treatment to Loyola's center.

Two years into treatment, in 2010, Proulx decided to do something she'd never done before to support the cause: she dyed pieces of hair surrounding her face teal, the color that represents ovarian cancer, in accordance with efforts by the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Her drive to support the cause was documented in local newspapers, including the JJC student newspaper, The Blazer, in 2008.

"She was a tireless leader and was small in stature but was resolute in her charge to lead the college, even during her last days," Tierney said. "I often referred to her as 'little toughie.' I was fortunate to have seen her the afternoon before she passed and one of her last charges to me was, 'Be strong and carry on.' Dr. Gena Proulx will be remembered by me forevermore."

> Through her vision and leadership, seven major construction projects have taken shape across the college landscape to streamline student services and provide the space for programs and training.

The JJC Foundation Board of Directors has established the Dr. Gena Proulx Memorial Endowed Scholarship to help JJC students reach their educational goals. If you would like to honor Dr. Proulx and help create this living legacy, you can provide a memorial gift to the college by giving online at www.jjc.edu or providing a gift made payable to Joliet Junior College Foundation, mailed to the following address: Joliet Junior College, Office of Institutional Advancement, Dr. Gena Proulx Memorial Scholarship, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431. For more information, contact Kristin Mulvey at (815) 280-2353.



Streamlining Student Services

CAMPUS CENTER NOW OPEN

by **Rachel Rose**



For Joliet Junior College, the completion and opening of the Campus Center is the realization of a goal many years in the making.

The hallmark building of JJC's Master Plan, it not only creates a visitor-friendly front door for Main Campus, it meets some of the college's most critical student service needs by streamlining key functions and putting student service departments together in a central, easily accessible location.




Enrollment Center
Admissions
Financial Aid/Veterans
Registration and Records
Student Accounts and Payments
Monday to Thursday - 7:30 am to 7:30 pm
Friday - 7:30 am to 4:30 pm





"Relocation to the Campus Center is a major step for the plan and students' completion of their academic agendas," said Susan Paddock, interim vice president of student development. "The move provides us greater ability to serve students with a convenient one-stop shop."

Previously, service departments were scattered throughout the campus and were often difficult to find. Now, vital services such as admissions, financial aid and counseling are located along the corridor of the ground floor of the Campus Center, which is also known as the Student Street.

Paddock explained that now, for example, a continuing student can meet with a counselor to determine their appropriate class schedule, and then go right across the student street to register and pay their bill in an area known as the Enrollment Center.

"Having Student Accounts and Payments as a partner within the Enrollment Center for personal contact has been a great benefit for assisting our students," she added.

On the first floor of the Campus Center students will find career services, counseling, the new Enrollment Center (which includes admissions, financial aid, registration and records, and student accounts and payments), Academic Skills, Student Accommodations and Resources, Project Achieve, the bookstore, Multicultural Student Affairs, photo ID services, and the dean of students, in addition to the new cafeteria that is situated in the space adjoining the Campus Center to the C- and S-Buildings.

The entire second floor of the building is devoted to the library, which offers a wide variety of print and digital learning resources, individual and group study space, computers, and laptop plugins, among many other services.

"The students that have come in have been really excited to see what the new space has to offer," said Susan Prokopeak, library department chair. "There are so many resources here in the new space that they didn't have before."

The third floor is home to administrative offices such as the president and vice president offices, institutional research, marketing and creative services, foundation and alumni relations, financial services, human resources, business and auxiliary services, and the board room.

Meeting the needs of JJC students and developing the space and resources JJC needed to serve them was a priority for late president Gena Proulx, who recognized the college's need for centralized student services. Since she began her tenure at JJC in 2006, she worked tirelessly to see the Master Plan, the physical articulation of those needs, come to fruition.

In addition to presiding over several groundbreakings and several smaller construction projects, and seeing the Greenhouse Facility and the Facility Services buildings completed, Proulx saw the Campus Center through to completion in July 2011; but shortly thereafter, she passed away following a courageous battle against cancer.

In a 2008 interview, Proulx talked about how she was excited that JJC's Master Plan was alive and being put into action as opposed to collecting dust on a shelf as sometimes happens at other institutions; and that she enjoyed working together with her JJC team to see it carried out.

Board of Trustees Chairwoman Barbara DeLaney reflected on this aspect of Proulx's legacy at JJC.

"As an alumnus of the college, it was clear to me that the Campus Center, as the one-stop shop for student services, was always much needed at JJC, even 20 years ago," she said.

"But it wasn't until Dr. Proulx came to JJC that the Master Plan was taken off the shelf and put into action," Delaney added. "It was under her guidance that the college was able to move forward on several





critical projects outlined in the Master Plan, which included the Campus Center. The institution now has a true front door, and we have Dr. Proulx's strong vision and leadership to thank for that."

Proulx's dreams of seeing JJC undergo the changes and growth necessary to meet the needs of its burgeoning, changing district are evident on Main Campus and especially in the Campus Center, now a bustling hub of activity as students return and fall classes are underway.

Sitting on a bench and taking in all the activity and sights of the building, Arisa Tocwish, a second semester student, said how much she liked how easy everything was to find on the first floor.

"After visiting StAR (Student Accommodations and Resources), I was able to go right across the hall to the bookstore, where a guy helped me find the books I needed for my classes right away. It was so easy!"

As a busy fall semester begins, staff and faculty are now settling in to the Campus Center and students are familiarizing themselves with the new buildings and changes on Main Campus. But the college continues to look to the future and remains focused on its mission of providing affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services to its students.

"It's a very exciting time of change to be in this beautiful new building, but what has not changed is our commitment to helping our students succeed in their goals," said Paddock. "In our new spaces we are now better equipped than ever to serve students and provide them with the resources they need, and I'm looking forward to seeing what a positive impact that will have on their academic success."

Key features of the building:

- **Built to LEED Silver standards***
- **114,000 sq. ft. total, for student services, academic support and administrative offices**
- **A highly efficient geothermal system comprised of 90,000 ft. of pipe and 84 wells buried 500 ft. deep in the earth maintains the building temperature, using ground temperature for heating and cooling**
- **Carbon-neutral green roofs help reduce the heat island effect and also reduce storm water runoff by 50 percent**
- **Most of the building has access to daylight through windows and skylights, minimizing electricity consumption**
- **Energy-efficient LED lighting is used throughout the building**
- **Over 40 percent of the building is comprised of regional (produced within 500 miles) and recycled materials**

*Pending certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an internationally recognized green building certification system.



Career Connects

Jeremy Ly helps launch JJC's new workforce development program, Career Connects

by **Kristen Rivers**

As a former teacher who has worked in inner-city Chicago, Jeremy Ly knows the challenges students face when it comes to finding a career path, especially in a struggling economy. His commitment to strengthening the local community and workforce is what led him to become a part of piloting the new Career Connects program at JJC.

Career Connects Will and Grundy Counties is an online tool produced by CareerCruising.com, an interactive career resource that connects students and job seekers with businesses through a virtual environment.

"This project is truly an amazing example of how we need to break down the walls of our departments and all work together for the betterment of our community," Ly said.

The initiative is funded by grants that include a JJC Student Success grant, a $5,000 Award for Excellence grant from the JJC Foundation, a $3,000 grant from the Grundy Community Foundation help to launch the program, and most recently, a $1,000 grant from the Grundy, Livingston, Kankakee Workforce Board.

"Career Connects is a one-stop electronic portal where students, teachers, administrators, job seekers, and adults can go to find out about careers within the JJC region... [And see] Will and Grundy Counties as a great place to work and live," Dan Kreidler, JJC dean of community and economic development, added.

Partnering with local high schools and colleges like the University of St. Francis, Career Connects is currently available to over 60,000 students. Nearly 70 area businesses are currently involved, but Ly and Kreidler hope to reach a goal of involving 150 area businesses.

For businesses, the benefits of Career Connects are many. Career professionals in the local community can play an active role in connecting with the future workforce. Mentors can inform students of the best classes to take for their future with local companies. Never before has there been such a strategic link between supply of workers and demand for their talent, Ly said.

Using Career Connects as a guide, students can obtain real world information about their career options, making them well informed and well trained before they enter the workforce, he added.

Drawing from his three years of teaching fourth grade through Teach for America, where he had to act as parent, nurse and often probation officer for his students, Ly said he has learned the value of community involvement in education, and uses his position within the program to give back to the community that gave him his start.

"I love the community aspect of my job. I'm not a desk job kind of guy and I love to be out in the community, making a difference. Our area has a high unemployment number and the only way we are going to rebuild our economy is by everyone working together to solve problems," he said. "One business, one school, one high-school, one politician alone can't solve anything, but working together for job growth and connecting businesses to students early on in their educational career will only prove fruitful down the road."

Additional partners on the project include the University of St. Francis, Community Foundation of Grundy County, Joliet Junior College Foundation, Three Rivers Education Partnership, Workforce Board of Grundy, Livingston, and Kankakee, and the Will County Workforce Investment Board.

For more information about the Career Connects program, visit www.jjc.edu/info/career-connects or contact Ly at (815) 280-6831.

New Library Opens to Students, Community

by **Ericka Wellner**

In a lounge area reminiscent of a contemporary coffeehouse with sleek modern furniture and floor to ceiling windows sits T.J. Urbanski as he begins to share his excitement for college's new library.

"The goal of the library was to create an environment that would meet the needs of JJC students," says Urbanski who is JJC's library director. "The new library is a beautiful place for students ... to study and pursue their educational goals."

After nearly 40 years, the college library has relocated from the third-floor of the Main Campus J-Building to its home on the second-floor of the new Campus Center as part of the college's $189 million master plan.

"The library now has seven group study rooms that can be scheduled for students working on group projects, plenty of computers that can be used to complete course assignments and research, and a stable wireless network," Urbanski says.

As the information age evolves, technology grows more and more prevalent, for this reason, Urbanski says the library must also evolve—marrying the traditional with the new.

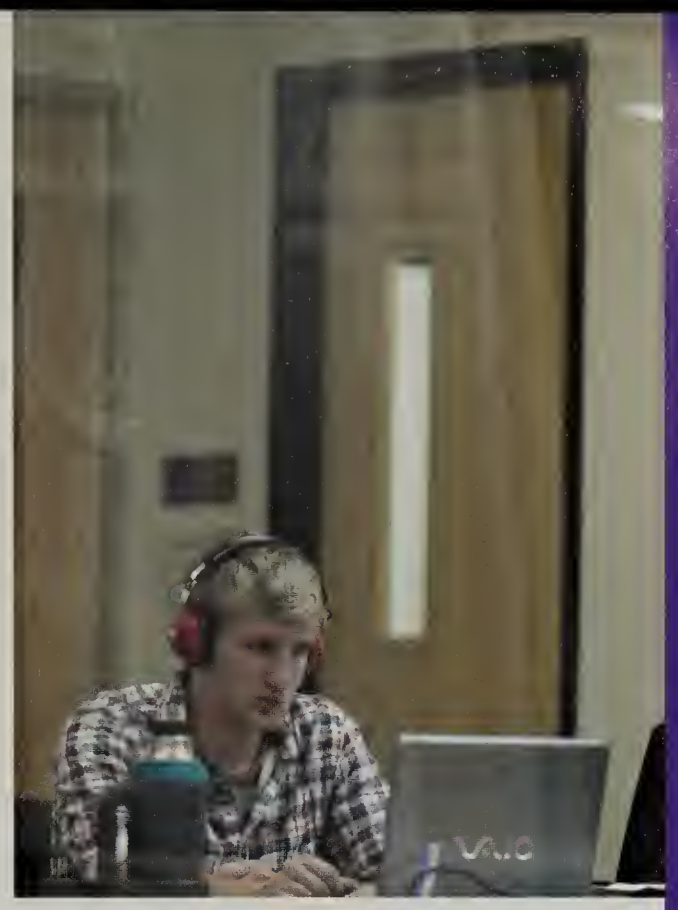
"The library should play a vital role in merging new social media and mobile device options with the more traditional education tools it currently provides to ensure it is an integral part in education," he says.

Not only is there an extensive collection of books and periodicals, there is a vast electronic collection including digital magazines, journals as well as over 660,000 maps of more than 12,000 American cities and towns in Sanborn Maps collection and over a million images in the digital resource ArtStor.

Also, new to the library is a tool called MyMediaBookBag, which allows students the ability to download audio books and eBooks to a PC, mobile device, and tablet.

And just steps from the stacks, outside on the terraces are green roofs, which in a culture moving toward sustainability, could be used as a valuable learning tool, Urbanski says.

Open 75 hours a week with 40 public computers, the library is also a convenient resource for community members.





It was for Jeremy Kreuzer, who was laid off this spring and used the resources in the library to help him land a job.

"I was laid off in May," says Kreuzer. "So I made a routine of coming to the library a few times a week and spending four or five hours on the computer, creating a resume and surfing the internet looking for jobs and filling out applications."

After nearly five months of being unemployed, Kreuzer recently got hired at Lunch At Hand, a delivery food service company, an opportunity he credits to hours spent in the JJC library.

"I don't have a computer at home so JJC was the next best thing," he says. "Who knows where I'd be if having the access to those computers wasn't available. I'm just glad I never got kicked out," he jokes. "I might be still be unemployed had I not camped out in front of the computers for days at a time."

Kreuzer's story is just one of many successful tales that Urbanski hopes to come.

"The hope for the future of is that the library continues to grow and evolve to serve the needs of the students, staff and community members," he says. "The library is the heart and the soul of the institution. It is our goal is to support the pursuit of our student's goals and ensure their success."



by **Ericka Wellner**

New state-of-the-art facility addresses area job shortages

What began over a year ago as an empty lot bordering the C-Building on the Main Campus has transformed into a stunning 17,000 square-foot expansion complete with a commercial automotive shop.

The $5 million Automotive Technology expansion, which was completed in July, took two years of vigorous research and planning says Jim Coleman automotive professor at JJC.

"We traveled to dealerships and schools as far away as Wisconsin and took the best ideas from all of these facilities and incorporated them into our design," says Coleman. "We wanted the shop to have the look and feel of a dealership while maintaining the functionality of a training facility."

And with the addition of 16 service bays, a large customer service area including a parts department and utility and storage space, the new shop is everything Coleman had envisioned.

But more importantly, for students like Dan Caputo, the expansion grants the opportunity to work with the most up-to-date technology in an environment comparable to the automotive field.

"I can't wait to work with the new equipment. We'll be using the same tools as in the field," says the 19-year-old. "Working with this equipment will make the transition into the auto industry less intimidating. It will feel natural—like the next step."

New lifts have been installed and alignment equipment updated to meet current industry standards, which is pivotal in an industry evolving from mechanical parts to electronics and computers, says Scott Walsh, owner of Rockdale Automotive.

"The new shop is outfitted with cutting edge tools and equipment," says Walsh, who is also an Automotive Advisory Board member at JJC. "It is a state-of-the-art facility and is comparable to not just general dealerships, but brand new dealerships."

Accompanying each service bay is a tool stall complete with toolkit, locker and computer. Having a computer at every service bay allows students instant access to repair and service information and technical support. The computers will also allow the ability to reprogram the vehicle computer.

In the past, students had to leave their workstation and print the necessary information from a localized computer. Sometimes this meant printing up to 20 pages—a laborious task Caputo says he will not miss.

"If we need to look something up, like torque specifications or disassemble procedures, we would have to walk to the only computer and print it out," Caputo recalls. "But now we will have a computer within arms' reach."

The expansion is not only furnished with the most up-to-date equipment and technology, it is double the






size of the original area, allowing students the ability to service approximately 30 cars a day. And unlike the former shop, the new space gives students enough room to see a project from start to finish.

Prior to the addition, students had to share larger projects. For example, one student might start an engine or transmission job, but another would finish it.

"It'll be nice to have all the new space and the freedom to work without having to maneuver around each other," Caputo says. "There is a sense of accomplishment when you've completed a job from start to finish."

Having the new space also means that the college will be able to train more technicians to fill critical job shortages within the industry. According to a recent publication of the Federal Occupational Outlook Handbook, 126,000 new automotive technicians will be needed across the country. This represents the biggest actual increase of all the technical careers listed and does not even include the jobs that will become available because of retirements and promotions. Earnings locally range from $20,000 to $85,000 annually.

As the finishing touches were added to the expansion, an 18-by-12-foot American flag was hung in the new automotive shop to symbolize the culmination of hard work and good fortune to years that come, says Coleman.

"We have done something very special that will change the lives of many people for years to come," he added. "I always tell students there is one simple rule in life and that is to always leave things better than you found them. In this case we certainly have."



Facility Services Building Completed

The second building completed in JJC's Master Plan incorporates the latest in green design features

by **Kelly Rohder**







JJC hosted a grand opening ceremony in March for its new Facility Services Building.

The LEED Silver (pending certification) facility, located on the Main Campus, is home to the college's custodial, maintenance, environmental safety, planning/construction, roads/grounds, and facility scheduling staff. The project was funded as part of the 2009 Illinois Jobs Now program through the Illinois Capital Development Board.

Jim Underwood, executive director of the Illinois CDB, spoke at the ceremony and said they are proud to have been a part of the project.

"This Facility Services Building uses the latest in green design features which means it will use less energy and have less of an impact on the environment than traditional construction. This is something near and dear to Gov. Quinn's heart, and CDB is proud to lead the Governor's Green Building Initiative in Illinois," Underwood said.

He added that construction of the building created approximately 60 badly needed, good-paying construction jobs.

"And this doesn't count the number of people who will have permanent jobs working here, or those who will find good-paying jobs after coming here to learn. This is a win-win situation for everyone," he said.

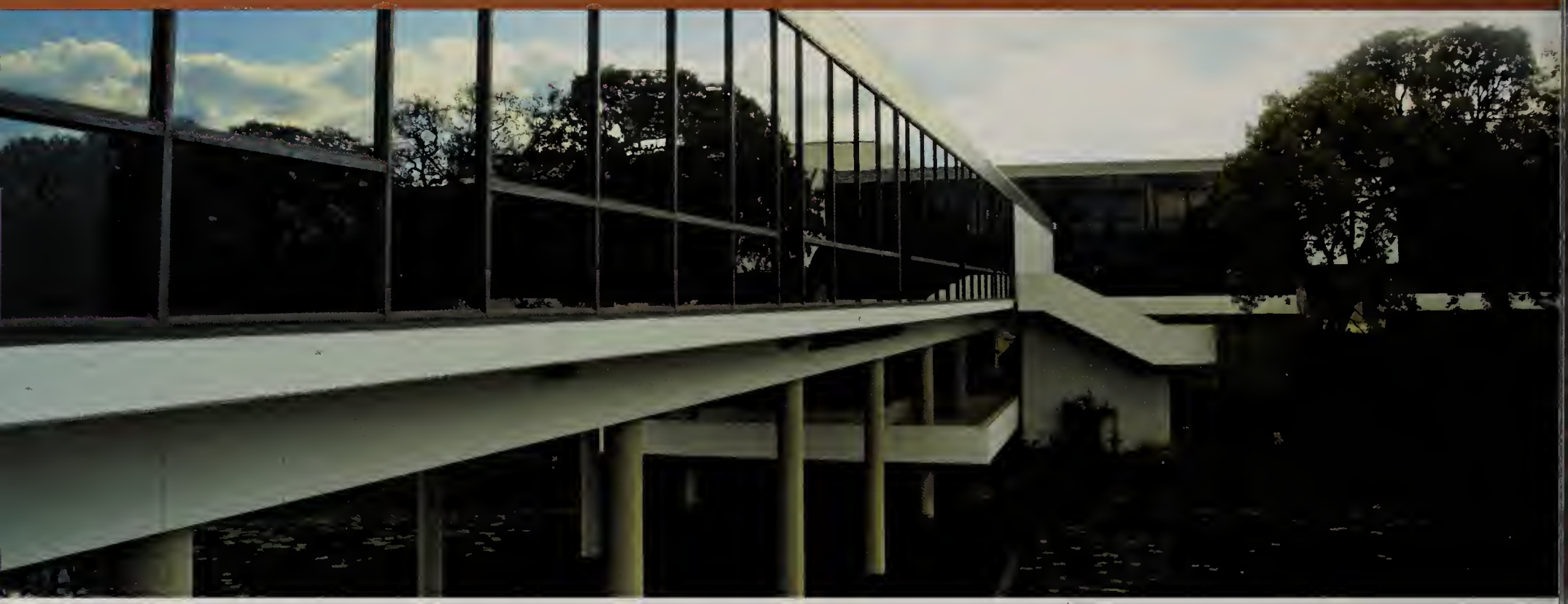
The new building replaces 42-year-old temporary buildings that had previously housed the Facility Services functions. Originally, the temporary buildings were constructed to serve as short-term classroom and office space during construction of the permanent main campus, when the college split from Joliet Township High School and moved to the current Houbolt Road location in the late 1960s.

Green Features

Designed by Legat Architects with lead construction by Gilbane Building Company, the building boasts multiple green features, which include:

- All light fixtures are LED, making this one of the first buildings in the area to have this feature
- White reflective roofing
- Geothermal heating and cooling system
- Solar-powered/pre-heat ductwork that is located on the roof takes air from the outside of the building, heats it, and cycles it into the interior of the building
- All occupied spaces in the building have motion sensors that control lighting
- Daylight ventilation in all areas including offices and shop/work areas. This means each area is uses the maximum amount of daylight possible. All windows are operable, meaning they can be opened to help naturally control room temperature
- Most materials for the building were purchased from within a 500-mile radius. This includes steel from Chicago, precast concrete from Aurora, Ill., windows from Wisconsin
- All windows are high-efficiency, Low E glass, meaning that the glass repels UV rays with a metallic coating in order to keep furniture, carpet from fading but still allow visible light
- All plumbing fixtures are super low flow, meaning that they have the lowest water consumption available
- All paint, coating, glues and adhesives contain low volatile organic compound, or VOC

Alumni Notes



1960s

Nancy Rowley '61 went on to receive a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1963 followed by a master's in architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology. Currently, Rowley is semi-retired and occasionally helps her husband in his insurance office. She enjoys traveling to visit her grandchildren and making quilts. Rowley is happy to have established a firm foundation at JJC in all the skills she needed when transferring to IIT.

1970s

Bettie Komar (nee Gilbert) '74 went on to receive a bachelor's degree in education from College of St. Francis (now University of St. Francis). A few years later, Komar completed a master's degree in reading at Northern Illinois University. After teaching for 35 years, Komar recently retired from Valley View Public Schools and is an adjunct instructor for the College of Education at Lewis University. "My classes at JJC got me off to a good start in my education program," says Komar.

1980s

Tim Reichert '80 after earning an associate degree in culinary arts at JJC, worked for Hyatt Hotels and Marriott as a chef, moving from Chicago to Greenville, S.C. From Greenville, he moved to Long Beach, Calif. In December of 1987, Reichert changed career paths and was hired by Ecolab where he's been in sales since. He got married in May of 1986, has two daughters and has resided near Charlotte, N.C. since.

Judy Minarich '88 earned two associate degrees at JJC and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Illinois University in 1990 followed by a master's in science education in 2000. After teaching in various schools for over 18 years, Minarich has recently started her own business; a gluten-free company, Real Appeal Inc. Her products can be found in local health and grocery stores. JJC gave her the basis she needed to continue her education. Minarich has been talking to her son about JJC since he is interested in the orthotics and prosthetics program along with engineering. "This is the best compliment you can give a school because he is my best accomplishment," says Minarich.

Send us your news and notes.

Send your e-mail address, news about your family, your career, and anything else you would like to share with the Alumni Association and JJC alumni. We will include your news in the next Alumni Notes.

Photos are also welcome; simply provide information about the content of the photos. Then, mail it along with the photos to:

JJC Alumni Relations Office
Room A-3023
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Or forward your information and digital photos (.jpg format) via e-mail to alumni@jjc.edu.



2000s

Jennifer Pankow '01 went on to complete a bachelor's degree in psychology at Aurora University, a master's degree in developmental psychology at Northern Illinois University, and another master's degree and Ph.D. in experimental psychology at Texas Christian University (TCU) in December of 2010. Pankow has accepted a position with the TCU Institute of Behavioral Research where she will have the opportunity to collaborate with many gifted researchers in the area of main interest to her – drug abuse and correctional settings. Her coursework at JJC and her work with the JJC Campus Police launched her into the academic track. Pankow shares experience at JJC with the criminal justice program. "It was the cornerstone of my on-going education!"

Pamela Lewis '04 went on to receive a bachelor's degree in business administration from Robert Morris University where she graduated magna cum laude. Lewis was also inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Honors Society. She continued at Robert Morris Graduate School of Management where she received a MBA in Leadership. She was the speaker for both the 2008 and 2010 fall commencement at Robert Morris and published a poem in the Robert Morris University's literary magazine "The Egg."



IN MEMORIAM
JOHN WEITENDORF, SR.

by **Kelly Rohder**

John H. Weitendorf, Sr., major donor, former Foundation Board member, JJC alumnus, and supporter of the college's agriculture program passed away Sept. 17. He was 89.



Through his philanthropic endeavors, Weitendorf and his wife, Mary, established a high school scholarship for students graduating from Joliet West and an endowed general scholarship for JJC students, which pays for their books, tuition and fees. Most notably, he donated 32 acres of land to the college in 1999, valued at $500,000, to be used as the site of a new agricultural center, now located on Laraway Road in Joliet across from the Chicagoland Motor Speedway. Several gifts were given by various donors in support of the agricultural educational center but the project was financed in majority by Weitendorf, who donated $2.2 million.

"John H. Weitendorf, Sr. believed in the importance of education and wanted his legacy to reflect that. He was a very generous man," Kristin Mulvey, JJC director of institutional advancement and executive director of the JJC Foundation, said. "He was very proud of the new facility that was named in his honor and we are grateful for everything he did for the college and our students."

The John H. Weitendorf Agricultural Center officially opened its doors in June 2007 and serves as a reminder of Weitendorf's generosity and the longstanding tradition of JJC alumni contributing to the educational mission of the college. While the center's primary focus is education, the 30,500 square foot complex is available for outside groups and is an ideal location for meetings, events, or shows.

Features include:

- Four meeting/class rooms
- 10,800 square foot arena
- 6,900 square foot exhibit hall
- Livestock holding wing
- Livestock gates, auction block, and indoor wash racks

Born in Frankfort, Illinois and a lifelong Joliet area resident, Weitendorf graduated from Frankfort High School in 1936, Joliet Township High School in 1940, and from Joliet Junior College in 1942. In 2003, he was awarded the Joliet Junior College Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for his success in the real estate business and his generosity to JJC. John Weitendorf served as a member of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors from 1999 – 2007 and afterward served as an honorary member.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Mary L. Weitendorf Family Center Endowment Fund, the Joliet Junior College Foundation, or the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Research Fund of Jacksonville, Fla. For more information, contact Kristin Mulvey at (815) 280-2353.

Alumni Awards

The awards below were given at the 30th annual Alumni Brunch held in June at the Renaissance Center in downtown Joliet.

Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award

The Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award was established to recognize a non-alumna/alumnus of Joliet Junior College who is a current or former faculty member, administrator or friend who has served Joliet Junior College in an exceptional way.



Dr. Emily C. Zabrocki, JJC Professor Emeritus of Nursing, is one of the founding members of the JJC nursing program. Dr. Zabrocki devoted many years to the development and success of one of JJC's hallmark academic programs. After graduating from the College of St. Teresa, she worked in Chicago and Indiana hospitals before joining the faculty at Silver Cross Hospital School of Nursing. Later, she would go on to earn her M.S.N. and Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Chicago. In the late 60s, Dr. Zabrocki came to JJC and assisted Helen Tea in launching the ADN program, which welcomed its first students in the fall of 1969. She became chair of the nursing program in 1971, a position she held intermittently for 12 years. Throughout more than 30 years with the college, she was active on many committees and taught nursing courses at almost every level. Dr. Zabrocki is currently working on a family histories project, and has contributed several articles to genealogical publications.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

This is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni of Joliet Junior College. It is presented to those alumni who have demonstrated outstanding success in their chosen field, and who have provided humanitarian service to society.

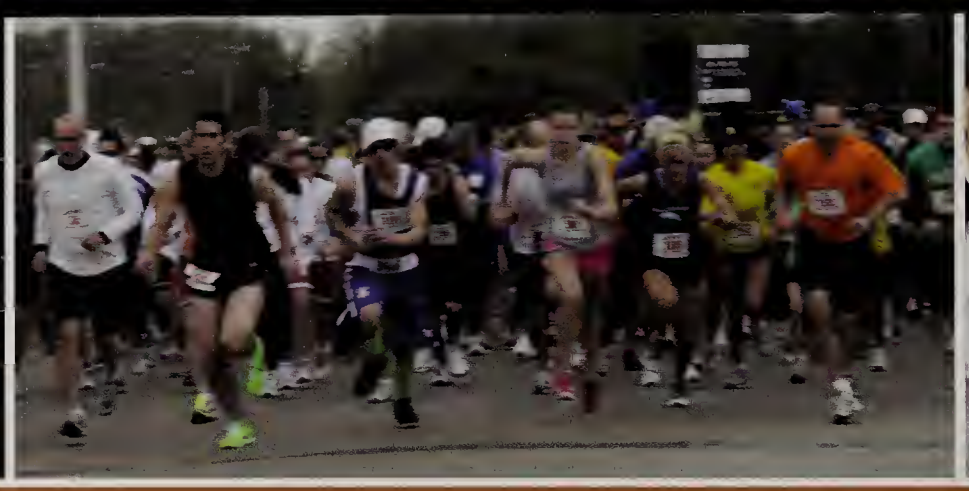


Dr. Daniel Gutierrez '58 is an internal medicine physician who is actively involved in the medical community and in supporting his alma mater, JJC. After graduating from JJC, he went on to earn a doctoral degree in medicine from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He also served in the U.S. Army for two years, which included a year spent in Vietnam as a medical officer. In addition to operating an internal medicine private practice for 31 years, Dr. Gutierrez served as medical director for the Will County Health Department and helped found the Will County Community Health Center. He has also served on the Silver Cross Hospital Board of Trustees, and was chairman during the time in which the board decided to build the new hospital in New Lenox. Dr. Gutierrez supports JJC by endowing a scholarship in honor of his parents, and is currently enjoying semi-retirement.



Robert Baca '78 has a prestigious music career that spans four decades, and includes his work as jazz band director, professor of music, performer, clinician and active community member. After completing a music degree at JJC, he continued on to Indiana University in Bloomington where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education and music performance. Since 1986, he has held the position of professor of music at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. In addition to an impressive list of performances in orchestras, bands and jazz ensembles - which include the 2009 Disney Jazz Celebration and several Broadway shows such as "Wicked", "Evita" and "My Fair Lady" - Baca is the Bach Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Company and has presented more than 100 clinics and concerts throughout the United States and China.







2011 Sponsorship Campaign

In January 2011, the JJC Foundation began a combined sponsorship campaign soliciting vendors and businesses with an established relationship with Joliet Junior College. Rather than appealing for their support with each event, one request was made asking for support for our annual 5K Run, the Steinway Piano 88 Key Campaign, and the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the JJC nursing program.

The combined appeal raised a total of $51,750. We would like to thank the following sponsors who took part in this campaign:

Gold Sponsors–$5,000 and above

First Midwest Bank
Gilbane Building Co.
Harris NA
Legat Architects

Silver Sponsors–$3,000 to $4,999

Baldwin & Company
Excel Electric, Inc.

Diamond Sponsors–$1,000 to $2,999

Hometown National Bank
Hometown Suburban Vending, Inc.
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To learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.jjc.edu/info/foundation or contact Kristin Mulvey at (815) 280-2353 or kmulvey@jjc.edu.

Upcoming Events at JJC

SAVE THE DATE

Joliet Junior College Foundation
5K Run/Walk
May 5, 2012

To register, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5K

December 2011

Alumni Employee Recognition Event

February 2012

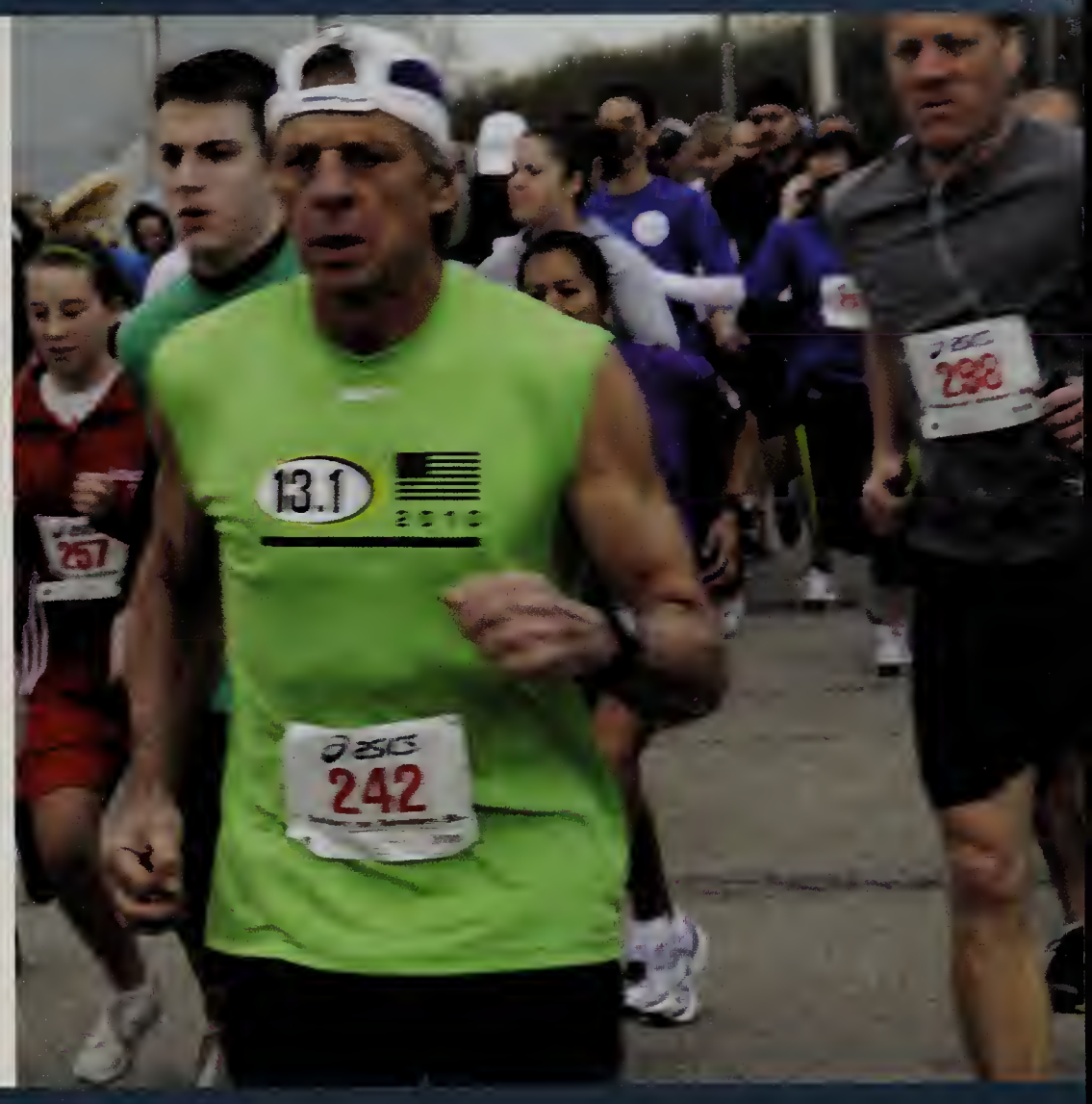
Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshops

March 29, 2012

Scholarship Recognition/Donor Dinner Event

May 20, 2012

31st Annual JJC Alumni Brunch



Visit www.jjc.edu/info/events for more information.



CULTURE AT JJC!

Every year, the Fine Arts Department offers a wealth of entertainment and cultural activities for the community to enjoy. With excellent theatre productions, must-see art gallery openings and nationally recognized musical offerings, the college is a cultural destination in the Chicagoland area.

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

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1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.



JJC prepared Chef Andy Chlebana, a 1995 graduate, for a successful career as a nationally renowned, award-winning pastry chef. As an instructor at the college, he is now training the next generation of culinary professionals.

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

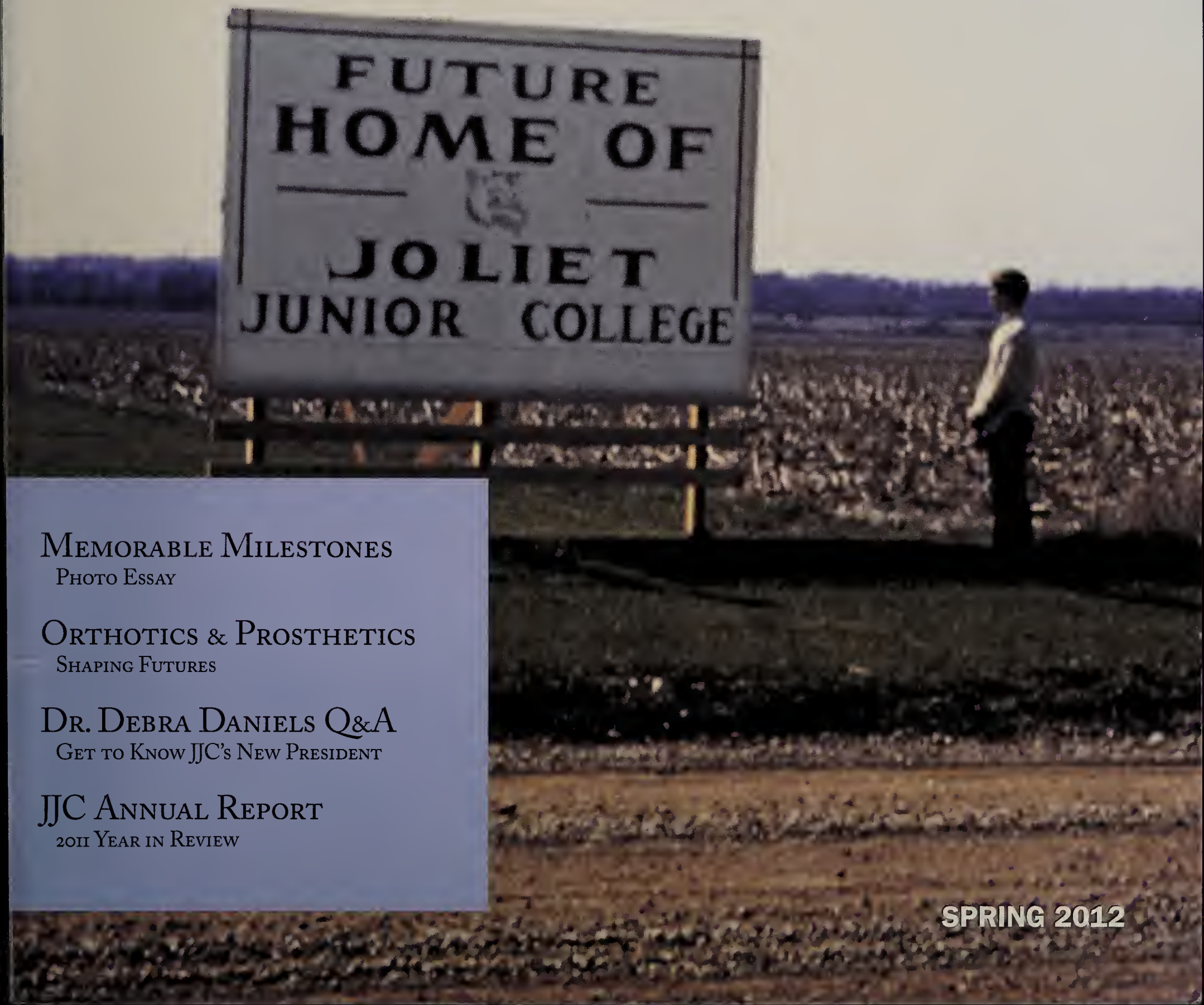
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joliet junior college magazine

Memories to Milestones



Memorable Milestones
Photo Essay

Orthotics & Prosthetics
Shaping Futures

Dr. Debra Daniels Q&A
Get to Know JJC's New President

JJC Annual Report
2011 Year in Review

SPRING 2012

Emergency Medical Services

Earn your degree from JJC's EMS program and prepare for a great career in a high-demand field.

The EMS associate degree program trains individuals for a wide variety of EMS careers including fire service, hospital emergency department technicians, physicians' offices and clinics, and EMS-training facilities. The program is also now offering a **new terrorism response course**, which prepares fire and EMS personnel for the challenges of responding to emergencies in 21st century terrorism situations.

JJC's EMS instructors are experienced professionals dedicated to the success of their students: graduates have a **100% pass rate** on the Illinois state licensing exam and the National Registry exam. Local employers prefer hiring JJC EMS graduates, who often go on to careers at fire departments and private ambulance services.



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Find your Career at JJC

To learn more about JJC, visit www.jjc.edu or call (815) 729-9020.

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Milestones are a part of every aspect of our lives. Many times, we move through the milestones without thinking about our accomplishments—we strive for the next important achievement. At times, we must remember to reflect on our milestones and enjoy our successes. Too often, we forget how important it is to pause and reflect.

In this issue of Connections, we reflect on the Memorable Milestones we have reached at Joliet Junior College. Together, we can remember the past, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the future. One way you can be a part of this celebration is by attending the 31st Annual Alumni Brunch on Sunday, May 20.

This year, our Alumni Brunch will take place at our Main Campus. What better way to see the result of the milestones we have reached than by enjoying some time on our beautiful campus. At this year's brunch, we will honor the classes of 1962, 1972, and 1982. We are excited to recognize Beulah Hoffer, a 1932 graduate and JJC Professor Emeritus of Physical Education and Philip Nelson, a 1978 graduate and President of the Illinois Farm Bureau with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed upon alumni of Joliet Junior College. We will also recognize Curtis Hieggelke, Ph.D., JJC Physics Professor Emeritus with the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award. This award is presented to a non-alumna/alumnus that has served our college in an exceptional way. Douglas Foss, a 1966 graduate of JJC and Associate Professor of Agriculture will receive the Faculty Prestige Award, which was voted on by the students. Joliet Junior College has been an important milestone in the lives of each of these recipients.

Please take a moment and reflect on your life. Was Joliet Junior College an important milestone for you? Maybe you graduated from Joliet Junior College, you work here, retired from here, or you are a supporter of our institution. Regardless, you have been a part of the continuous milestones we have reached. We appreciate that.

If you have a milestone to share, we want to hear about it. Please email me at aquinn@jjc.edu or visit www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect and reconnect with JJC today. Please attend the alumni brunch on May 20 and help me celebrate our milestones! To make a reservation, visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events.

Cheers,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

**If you would like to receive our monthly e-Connections newsletter, please update your personal alumni information and include your email address at www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect.*

Debra Daniels

by **Kelly Rohder**

Get to know JJC's new president





In March 2012, Dr. Debra Daniels became Joliet Junior College's eighth president. Her appointment marked the end of a three-month national search which garnered over two dozen applications.

Daniels, who has over 30 years of higher education experience, was previously the president of San Bernardino Valley College in California. Before that, she served as district vice president for academics and student services for Polk State College in Florida.

A community college graduate herself, she holds an associate of applied science in dental assisting from Delta College; a bachelor of science in allied health education from Ferris State University in Michigan; a master of vocational and technical education and a doctorate in education, both from the University of Illinois.

What will you do in your first 100 days at Joliet Junior College?

In my first 100 days, I plan to get to know the college community, the communities that JJC serves, and to become familiar with the philosophy and direction of the Board of Trustees. A big part of this process is to immerse myself in the workings of the college and the community.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing community colleges?

It would be easy to say budget or the economy but I think it is more complex in that community colleges as a whole still struggle with defining their mission. Community colleges that have spent some time deciding as an institution what type of services they will offer are more successful than those who try to serve every facet. Those that have a clearly defined mission and strategic plan to achieve that mission will know automatically their priorities for resource allocation.

In your campus visit in December 2011, you mentioned your appreciation for JJC's history and its place as the nation's first public community college. Why is this important to you?

I remember thinking what a risk it must have been to develop this new model of education that was not high school and not university. I am sure [William Rainey] Harper and [J. Stanley] Brown endured ridicule from their peers but they proceeded anyway. I think that is what community colleges should be about—a place for people to take risks and a place that takes risks to develop new programs and ways to serve our community. It is that entrepreneurial spirit that I have tried to practice throughout my career in higher education

What has been your proudest moment working in higher education?
As president of San Bernardino Valley College, I started a program for disadvantaged high school students to attend their first year of college for free called Valley-Bound Commitment. In the first year of the program, we had only one high school participating. I went to the orientation session being held at that school. At that session, three rowdy male students sat behind me and were making a lot of racket so I started talking to them about the program. They settled down a little and listened to the presentations.

When school started that semester, I noticed that one of the students that I talked to was in the Valley-Bound program. At the end of

"I think that is what community colleges should be about—a place for people to take risks and a place that takes risks to develop new programs and ways to serve our community."

the two semesters, this student came to the board meeting and told the board that he never thought he would go to college. It turns out he had accidently attended the orientation session where I met him. He and his buddies were trying to skip school but while leaving campus, they saw some teachers coming their way so they ducked into the auditorium where the Valley-Bound meeting was being held. He said he met the president of the college and he listened to the presentation and for the first time in his life, he thought he could go to college. He is a first generation college student who graduated from community college in two years and transferred to a four-year institution. His sister followed him into the Valley-Bound Commitment program and will graduate this year as well. The day at the board meeting was the proudest day of my career. I never forget that what we do in education changes lives!



JJC Past Presidents

Gena Proulx
July 2006 to August 2011

J.D. Ross
December 1998 to February 1999 (Interim)
February 1999 to May 2006

Thomas E. Gamble
August 1995 to December 1998

Raymond Pietak
May 1985 to July 1995

Derek Nunney
March 1979 to June 1984

Harold McAninch
August 1971 to January 1979

Elmer Rowley
August 1967 to August 1970

Memorable Milestones



A Photo Essay

by **Kelly Rohder**

It's probable that college founders J. Stanley Brown and William Rainey Harper could not have fathomed that their experimental postgraduate high school program, which served six students when it began in 1901, would evolve into a multi-campus institution serving upwards of 40,000 students a year over 100 years later.

Yet it's inevitable that JJC, the nation's first public community college, would amass a notable collection of milestones along the way. There was the move in 1969 from the college's original location within Joliet Township High School to farmland off of Houbolt Road in the western Will County. From there, new buildings, including athletic facilities, a fine arts theatre, classrooms, and satellite locations took shape. New academic programs, like the orthotics and prosthetics program that you'll read about in this magazine, were developed to meet labor market demands.

It may seem in recent years that the college has been transforming at a more rapid rate—a look through the last four years of this publication will attest. This is particularly evident through the implementation of the college's 2008-2013 master plan, which has executed a head-spinning six major projects, including the Greenhouse Facility, Campus Center, Facility Service Building, Automotive Technology Expansion, Natural Sciences Expansion, and Health Professions Building. In the last four years, the college's physical space has grown over 300,000 square feet to meet growing demand for training and education.

It is impossible to detail in these pages each milestone the college has achieved since 1901, or even in the last 40 years since the cultivation of the college's own campus and district. But what we can do is acknowledge our past, and its importance in guiding us in the present and through our future. The following photo essay shares a glimpse into what made the college what it is today, and the agents of change that propelled it. These images are a testament to the unique character of Joliet Junior College, and its commitment to teaching, learning, and the community it serves.

A very special thank you to the JJC Library and the Media Services Department for their collaborative efforts and for providing photos and information for this essay.



Where it all began--Joliet Junior College's original location, within Joliet Township High School off of Eastern Avenue in downtown Joliet. This photo was taken in 1924.



The JJC College Club, 1928. This club served as a student council until the late 1940s when it officially became known as the JJC Student Council.



Joliet Junior College classroom circa 1925.

Milestones & Highlights

1901
JJC was established by J. Stanley Brown and Dr. William Rainey Harper at Joliet Township High School

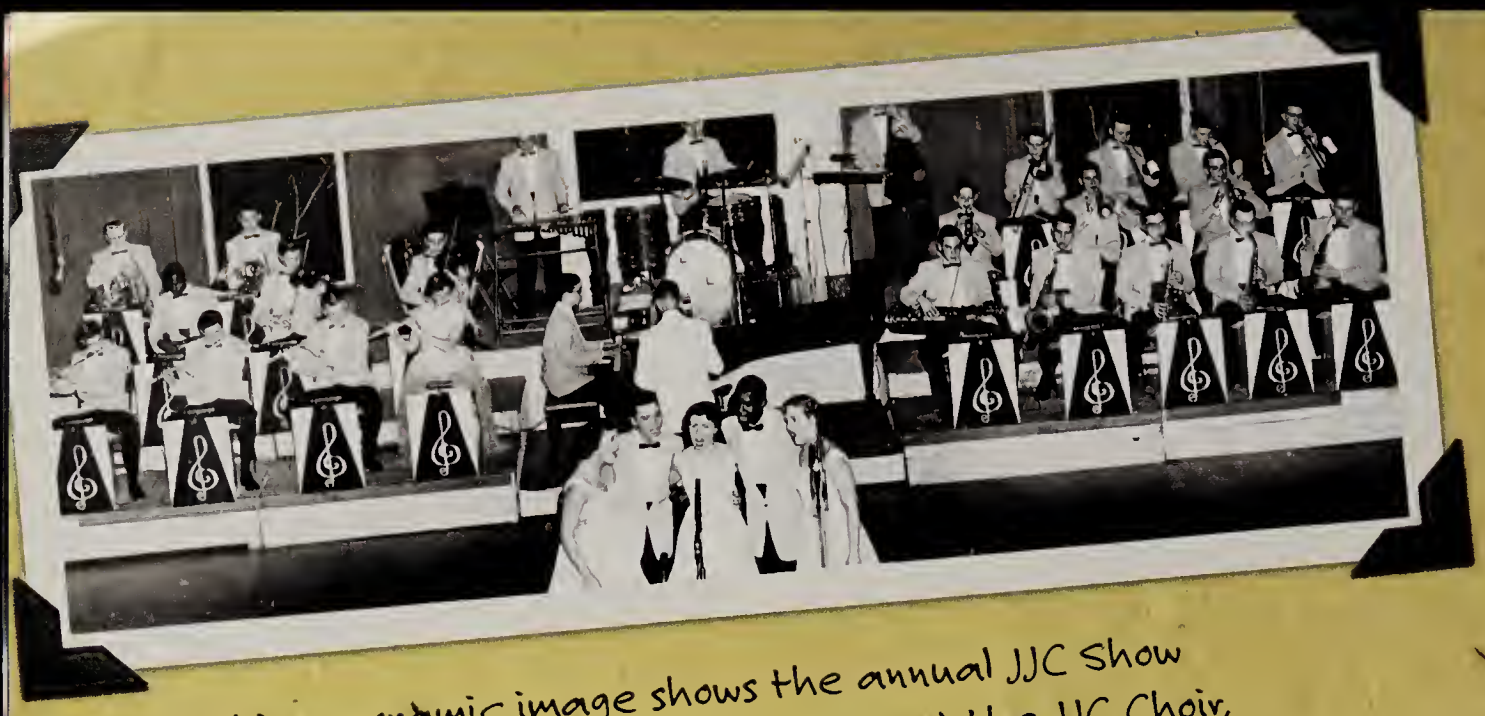
1916
Joliet Junior College was officially named

1917
JJC became accredited by the North Central Association

1918
First official JJC graduation ceremony held

1928
First student council was created

1938
The college library holdings included 8,776 bound volumes and 1,572 pamphlets



This panoramic image shows the annual JJC Show in May 1958. The JJC Show comprised the JJC Choir, Swing Band, Dance Troupe, JJC Players (theatre group) and selected student performers. The theme of this show was 'Panorama in Swing.'

Perhaps you've seen culinary students outside the J-Building on the Main Campus perfecting their craft, but in the early 1970s, before that campus was constructed, the college community was clustered into 17 temporary buildings like the one seen in the background here.

Student Council, 1949.







George H.W. Bush stopped at JJC while on the campaign trail in the 1980s and chatted with Trustee Charles Kennedy and JJC President Derek Nunney.

Many of the college's career and technical education curricula were developed in the 1950s, including the automotive technology program in 1951.

1943

Two new curricula were introduced, merchandising and secretarial training, developed to meet labor market demands

1951

Expansion of Adult Education and new academic programs: agriculture, music, automotivetechnology and pre-nursing

1964

New program added to help non-English speaking students to student development services

1966

The college's annual report detailed rapidly growing enrollments, from 1,043 full-time students in 1960-61 to 2,341 in 1965-66

1967

Junior colleges were officially recognized with the passage of the Master Plan for Higher Education in Illinois in 1965. JJC's District 525 is created



A popular student activity in the 1970s was the tricycle races held around the quad created by the temporary buildings.





The D-Building's first incarnation. Many students in 1970s and 1980s referred to this lounge as "Seal Island."

JJC Today

Celebrating our History
Founded in 1901, JJC is the nation's first public community college and is a leader in post-secondary education. More than 40,000 people proudly call themselves alumni of JJC.

Changing our Lives
Annually, more than 45,000 people change their lives through degree or certificate programs, training, and lifelong learning courses at Joliet Junior College.

Honoring our Veterans
More than 40,000 veterans in the JJC district, the college's Veterans Affairs Office offers customized support services, including assistance with applying for and using the education benefits.

Supporting our Seniors
The college's Plus 50 Workforce Center, funded by federal grants, provides innovative retraining and workforce skills opportunities for students 50 and over.

Revitalizing our Health Care
Joliet Junior College graduates make significant contributions to area health care institutions. In the past five years, more than 1,500 health care professionals have graduated from JJC.

Strengthening our Workforce
Nearly 75% of area employers hired a JJC student at some point over the last ten years.

Sustaining our Small Businesses
In the past year, the college has provided valuable training and development seminars to nearly 900 small businesses, companies and organizations in northern Illinois.

Building our Future
It is estimated that the current Facilities Master Plan (2008-2013) will generate 8,000 new jobs in the district through the direct and indirect impacts of construction.

The college's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness provided this data. Complete reports are available online at: www.jjc.edu/about/college-info/institutional-research

1968
The site for the new JJC campus is selected in February; in March, a bond referendum is approved

1969
Board voted to move to interim main campus and classes were held in 17 temporary buildings

1970
First Alumni association organized

1972
Phase 1 of main campus completed

1974
Phase 2 of main campus completed

1975
JJC Foundation organized

2008
$89 million referendum voter referendum passed construction begins on new master plan



Orthotics & Prosthetics Tech Program Shapes Futures

JJC houses one of only six orthotic and prosthetics technician programs in the nation.

by **Ericka Wellner**

In 2003, Greg Beene was involved in a nearly fatal motorcycle accident. Though he survived a monthlong coma, his right leg was amputated and was told he might never walk again.

Nine years later, Beene is training for the 2012 Paralympics.

After the accident and a short stint at a nursing home, Beene was placed at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. It was there he crossed paths with a representative from the American Coalition of Amputees, who propelled him to be fitted for his first prosthetic leg.

Beene now has three legs: one for walking, one for running and an apparatus for cycling. And though his prosthetists are still working on the perfect fit for a more efficient running leg, he says it's great just to be able to enjoy a jog.

"It's something I thought I wouldn't be able to do," the 34 year old says. "It's amazing what they [specialists] can do. You tell them your dreams and they do what it takes to make them come true.

"The prosthesis allows me to have a greater quality of life. Just being able to walk into a grocery store means so much," he adds. "These things start with people who come from programs like the ones at JJC."

Joliet Junior College houses one of only six orthotic and prosthetics technician programs in the nation. Developed five years ago by Michael Brncick, the college's OPT program coordinator, the program has grown five times its original enrollment size.

This fall, the program received accreditation by the National Commission on Orthotic Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Brncick, who came to JJC from Northwestern University where he served as administrative director of prosthetics and orthotics, explains that students who graduate from an accredited program are immediately eligible to take the certified technician exam administered by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics (ABC).

"There is a need for technicians in the Chicago-Joliet area as well as a national need," Brncick says. "The Midwest region has many orthotic and prosthetic laboratories that require entry level technicians and fitters to assist in patient care."

The health care field is one of the few industries that have maintained steady growth through the recession. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, between 2008 and 2018, healthcare will generate 3.2 millions jobs—more than any other industry.

There are two key factors for this, Brncick explains: the aging baby boom generation and the growing obesity epidemic.

"The baby boom generation is getting older and retiring in the next few years, and they'll need braces or different orthoses to help treat disabilities like arthritis. And obesity is a problem that isn't going way and leads to medical conditions like diabetes that unfortunately may require prosthetic intervention," he says.

There are opportunities in a variety of settings in the O&P field within private practices, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, specialty clinics, and home health settings.

In fact, because this is such a multi-faceted field, JJC's program requires that each student be interviewed before acceptance. Interviewing the students is important to educate them about the profession, says Brncick.

"We show them the laboratories so they understand that the combination of mechanical aptitude and academic knowledge is key to be successful in the profession." He adds, "Finding out what motivates the student to enter the O&P profession is also important. If the student talks about wanting to help people it shows they have the right mind set."

Brncick says his students have the benefit of learning a number of different skills making them more knowledgeable and employable.

"A lot of my students have filled local positions though I do explain to them they might have to move out of state or make a commute, but this is a growing field and there is a demand for qualified professionals," he says.

As for the future, Brncick has already started work on expanding the program to add an assistant-level training component. He also hopes to start a research sector of the program to help advance the field.



"I really enjoy teaching and being a part of this field," he says. "We are able to create devices and build limbs. We get the pleasure of seeing a patient regain the use of an arm or walk again—or walk for the first time."

For Beene, his prosthesis has meant a lot of firsts. Since his accident he has become a triathlete and a century cyclist, meaning he has ridden 100 miles in one day. And now, he's training for the Paralympics.

"I can do more with one leg than I ever did with two," he says. "The sky is the limit."

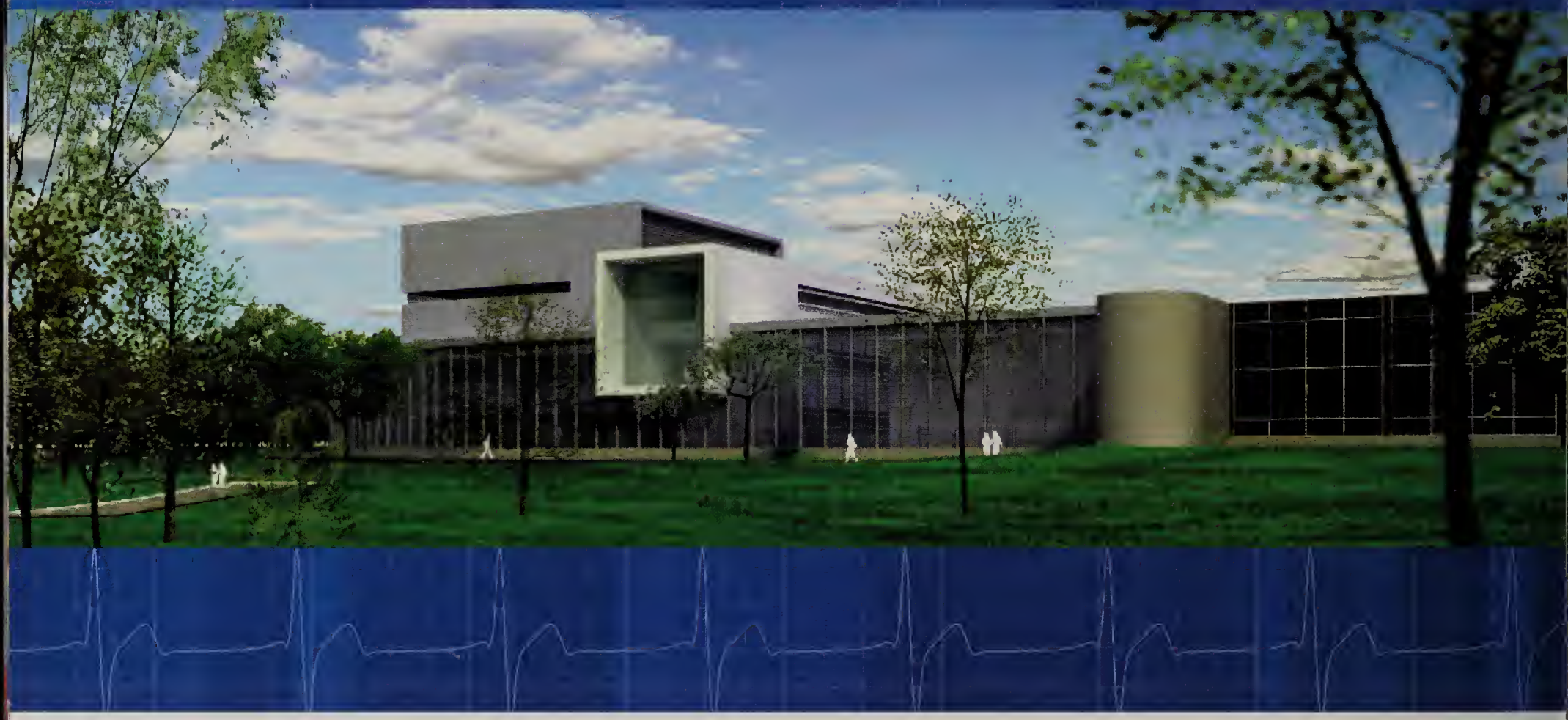


Students who graduate from JJC's program have job opportunities in a variety of settings, including private practices, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, specialty clinics, and home health settings.

Laying the groundwork for future jobs

Health Professions Building Takes Shape

by **Rachel Rose**



Since the summer of 2009, fire science and emergency medical services classes at JJC have been held in two small, temporary trailers located outside G-Building on the south side of Main Campus. The programs were relocated there when the college's 40-year-old temporary buildings, where they were previously housed, were torn down to make way for the new Campus Center.

The trailers provide very limited space for critical aspects of the learning process for students, such as simulations in which they practice responding to real-life emergencies. There are also no bathrooms in the trailers.

But in the new Health Professions Building, scheduled to open for classes in January 2013, there will be a stunning difference in the way EMS and fire science classes are conducted.

"The biggest improvement in the new building that we're looking forward to is the ability to incorporate simulations into our classes," said Duane Stonich, fire science professor.

In addition to their own classrooms and offices, the programs will have dedicated space for conducting simulations, such as a bathroom where EMS students can experience caring for hurt or sick patients who fall between the toilet and the tub, and a simulated ER patient room. In addition, the new building will also include an apparatus floor with an indoor bay big enough for a fire engine, a dispatch room, and classrooms with exhaust systems so students can practice fire behavior experiments safely.

"Having a dedicated space for real-life simulated scenarios will be of utmost benefit," said Charlotte Garrabrant, EMS professor. "I can tell students that it is difficult to get a patient out from between the wall and a toilet or what it is like to care for a patient in the back of an ambulance, but until they can experience it in a nearly real environment, they will have no idea how to handle it. It's the enhanced hands-on training capability that will be my favorite part of the new building."

Fire Science and EMS are just two of JJC's health care programs that will be moving into the 124,000 square-foot Health Professions Building when it is completed. The three-story building has space allotted for nursing/certified nurse assistant, radiologic technology, CPR,





electrocardiography technician, phlebotomy and for future programs the college is considering such as physical therapy assistant and ultrasound/sonography.

The college's nursing program is the largest associate degree nursing program in the state, according to Nursing, Allied Health and Emergency Services Department Chair Mary Beth Luna. Luna said the program will also benefit significantly from the improved, modern resources planned for the new building.

"The new building will have a large practice lab for our nursing students so they will be able to practice any nursing skill at any time the lab is open," Luna said. "Currently with our limited space we need to rotate skills stations, so students may need practice a skill, but it may not be readily available. That problem will go away with our new building."

Beyond providing state-of-the-art learning resources for health care programs, the new building will also help fulfill the college's role in its district as a vital resource for career preparation.

In fact, one of the college's goals in its new strategic plan is to develop programs that anticipate and respond to labor market demand.

"One of the things that is most exciting is that we will have the space to expand the health career offerings beyond what we have currently," Luna added. "Because of that, JJC will be able to respond to the needs of the local community in educating and training the health care workforce."

Employment projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2008 through 2018 reveal that the health care and social assistance industry will make up approximately 26 percent of all new jobs created in the U.S. economy, which add up to four million new jobs.

> "Having a dedicated space for real-life simulated scenarios will be of utmost benefit."
>
> - Charlotte Garrabrant, EMS professor

And in a recent report by the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago, the health care and social assistance field is also projected to have the largest increase in jobs through 2020, expected to add more than 80,000 jobs through 2015 and more than 140,000 through 2020.

In an address to community members at the groundbreaking for the Health Professions Building in January 2011, late JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx spoke about the correlation between the plans for the building and vital skills shortages in the labor market, saying that the modern learning environment the building will provide was critical to providing students with the necessary training needed to take advantage of job opportunities.

Creating a stronger link between colleges and labor market demands is also a goal for the state of Illinois.

As part of his 2012 State of the State address, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn stressed the vital role higher education institutions have in the state's goal of preparing students for jobs in the 21st century.

"The Illinois Jobs Agenda for 2012 will also move Illinois forward by investing in education," he said. "The best economic tool a state can have is a strong, innovative education system... [Lieutenant Governor Shelia Simon] and I have a mission in Illinois – by 2025, we want at least 60 percent of adults in our state to have a college degree, an associate degree or a career certificate."

With future growth and additional programs in mind, the building design incorporates the utmost flexibility and room for expansion. Movable walls and furniture enable the auditorium to adapt to audiences ranging from 20 to 150, and with identical classrooms on the first and second floors, all departments will have access to them as needed.

"As a vital, life-changing resource for thousands of students, JJC is demonstrating its commitment to training and preparing skilled health care workers by investing in the Health Professions Building," said Luna. "With health care careers only expected to grow in the coming years, this building could not come at a better time for those needing job training in our community."

Sugar Sensation

JJC Culinary Professor and Chef Andy Chlebana reflects on his Food Network Challenge experience and his winning creation—a dress made entirely of sugar.

by **Andy Chlebana**



It was September of 2010, and I had just stepped down from my position with the American Culinary Federation Team USA. While it was an honor to be selected for this team, the time requirements were much more than anticipated and my life had lost balance. In addition to being a full-time instructor of baking and pastry at JJC, this was another sixty plus hours of work per week. I felt that it was time to reprioritize, and I wanted to spend more time with my family.

It was around that same time I received a voicemail from a Colorado number. When I got around to listening to it, I heard the voice of a producer from Food Network Challenge asking me to call back.

For years I have watched Challenge, even watching many of my friends compete. The show brings four pastry chefs together to compete in either a sugar or chocolate competition. The competitors have eight hours to complete their masterpiece.

I knew that the chance to be on national television, putting my skills to the test, would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This had been something I'd wanted to do for a long time, but at that point in my life, I was not sure the timing was right. But my wife urged me to call back, so I did. It turned out that the producer wanted me to compete on Challenge in a show that would require contestants to create a fashion dress made entirely of sugar.

I agreed to start the application process, sending in some pictures and a bio, and later an audition video that I had fun making with the assistance of two students, Aaron Guajardo and Molly Meehan. A few days after I submitted the video I received a call saying that I had been cast. It was exciting news, but at the same time I was thinking, "I don't have the time off work yet and I'm still not sure I really want to do this!"

I didn't have a lot of time to think it over. The producers made it clear that things were moving forward quickly. They also told me whom I was going to be competing against: one of the best sugar workers in the country, Susan Notter, a Challenge veteran and another national champion. That did it for me, and I made my decision: I knew I would have my work cut out for me, and whether I won or not, I knew it'd be a great honor to compete, representing the college and myself in a really tough competition.

I enlisted the help of Heather Schreiner, a 2009 graduate of the JJC culinary arts program. We had less than three weeks to plan and practice: what we would be making, how we would construct it, how we would move it. There were several rounds of trial and error before we finalized the design. The sugar dress needed to look like a real dress, and it had to incorporate many sugar techniques (cast, blown and pulled), and most importantly it needed to be transportable. This was our real "challenge:" sugar is not

meant to be moved in a van four miles from the original location, and that is what we would be doing on the actual show!

It was an exhausting time prepping for our trip to Denver in November, where the competition would be filmed. We were working seven days a week, 12 to 16 hours per day. I was feeling as though my plans of slowing down and spending more time with my family were slipping away, but I found the strength to continue with this project thanks to how much support I received. We had coaches helping out and family members cheering us on, and when we practiced my wife would bring our kids so they could watch us work.

It wasn't until Heather and I arrived in Denver the week before Thanksgiving that my nerves started setting in. The first thing I had to do was a 90-minute pre-interview: my mind was running wild thinking, "Will I say something I shouldn't, will I be sweating, what will my friends think when they see me?" It was surreal to be there and know that tomorrow was the day we had to compete.

"I knew I had my work cut out for me. I did not care if I won, all I was thinking about was finishing on time and representing the college and myself in a good light."

Later that night, we had a chance to meet the other competitors and judges to go over the rules and timeline for the next day. Everyone was very friendly, which put me a little more at ease.

The competition started the very next day before 6 a.m. We were called in one at a time to shoot intro shots first, and when we finally got into the kitchens, they filmed two false starts and then the third and final one. Once the clock started, it did not stop for seven hours. When it did stop we had another 30 minutes to pack, and then an additional hour for final assembly.

It was an exhilarating and exhausting seven hours, making the dress again as we had done so many times before in practice, but this time with the pressure of camera crews all around us and knowing that this was the time that everything little thing we did mattered. Amazingly, at the end of our seven hours, we finished a few minutes early, giving us a few minutes to relax and reflect on what we had accomplished.



Chef Chlebana's winning creation, a dress made entirely of sugar.



When we were done there was an overwhelming sense of accomplishment: we had done what we set out do. As all the competitors sat in the green room awaiting the judges table, all sorts of thoughts were racing through my head: "Did we do enough? Was it what they wanted to see? Could we really win $10,000?"

I was the last contestant to go before the judges. They had great things to say, until one judge gave me a reason to worry. He said that it was a nice dress, but that I was lacking technique. I really began to doubt that I could be the winner. When the contestants were narrowed down, we were in the top two, along with Susan Notter. I couldn't believe it. So you can imagine that I was then in complete shock when we were announced as the winners!

In the studio afterwards we were so tired, and it was hard to get excited about another 15 hour day, since the next morning we had to go back for post interviews. But I told Heather that this would be great: we know we won and we could celebrate now, and when the show airs we get to celebrate again.

"At one point I was yelling over to one of the kitchens teasing them about a piece for their dress that was starting to look like a big green cucumber."

Though winning was exhilarating, I could not talk about it when I got home, since we had signed confidentiality agreements before the taping. The competition took place the week before Thanksgiving 2010, and it did not air until nearly five months later on Easter Sunday 2011.

After such a long wait, I was full of anticipation when the time finally came to sit down and watch the show. My family and I watched it together at home in peace and quiet. After all, the reason I did the show was for my family. They are the most important thing in my life, and without their continued support I could not compete at this level.

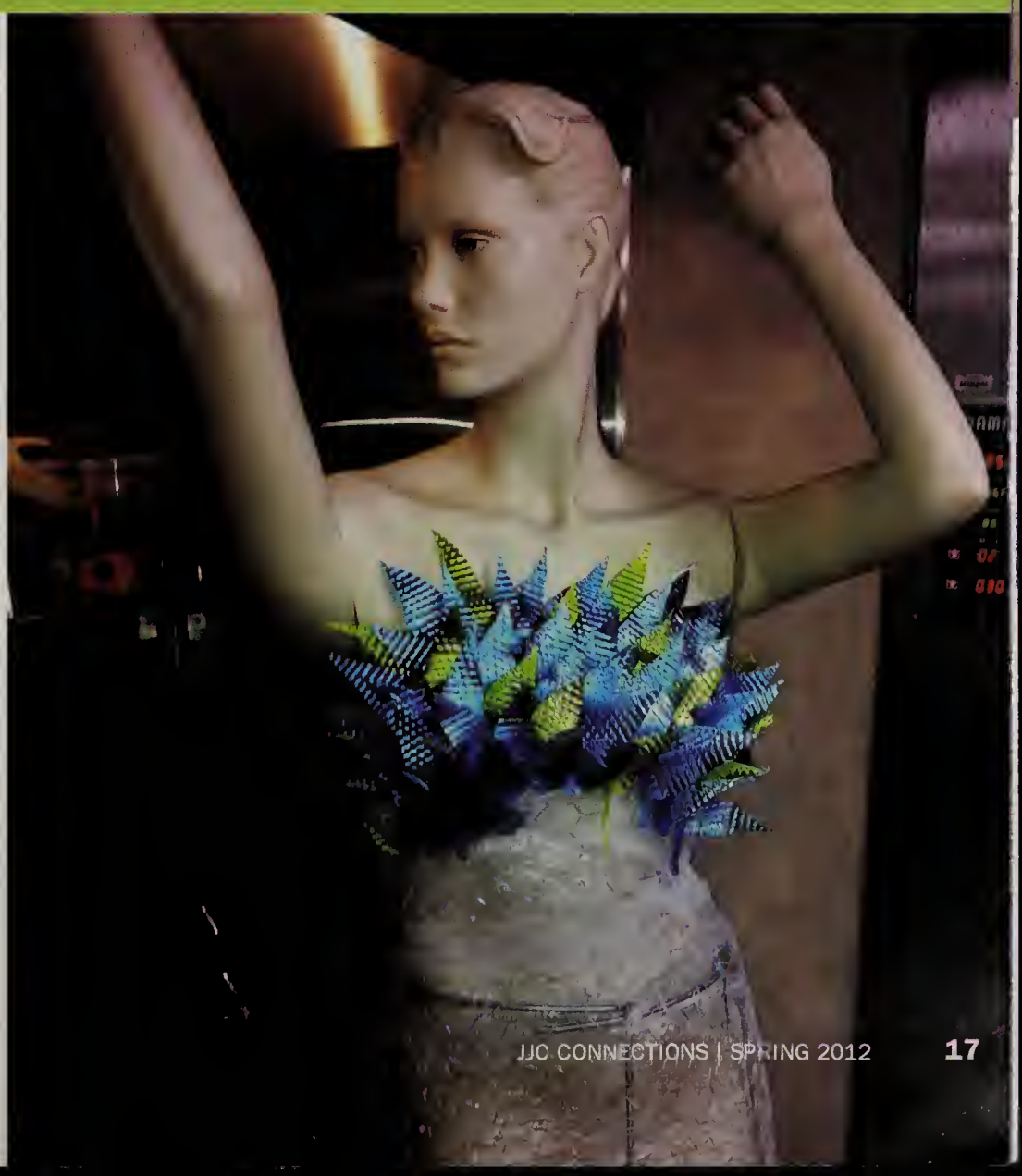
My kids really got a kick out seeing dad on TV: they had been asking for months when it would air, and finally it was here. I have never heard four kids scream so loud when they announced I won! Their excitement made me feel even more happy about winning then I did when it actually happened.

Chef Chlebana with his JJC students, all of whom graduated from the culinary arts program in the last three years. From left: Juan Ortiz, Ender Oktayuren, Erica Kendall.

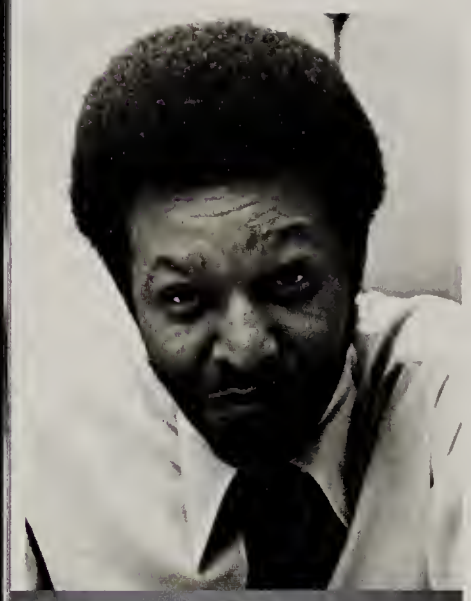
Since I filmed Challenge I have been busy, but life has gotten back to normal. There were several interviews immediately following the show, and our phones were ringing off the hook for several hours after the show aired. I even still get the occasional, "Hey, you're the guy who won the Food Network show!", when I'm out around town. Sure, it's great to be recognized for winning the show, but to me it validates my abilities and what we teach our students. If you plan and practice your craft, you can do anything!

I continue to compete since the show has aired, and I'm hoping for another chance to compete on Food Network. I like to push myself and I think it sets a good example for my students. It is important to keep a balance between work and personal life while still trying new things and staying motivated to advance my craft.

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Then and Now





J.D. Ross

THEN

J.D. Ross came to Joliet Junior College in 1974 as the director of the Inmate Training Program, which offered college-level technical and academic programs at four state correctional centers. Over the years, he held numerous positions in the academic affairs division of the college, including dean of special programs, dean of career education, and vice president for academic services. In February of 1999, he was appointed the sixth president of the college. He retired from Joliet Junior College in 1996.

NOW

Since retiring from JJC, Ross has served as the executive director of the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, a not-for-profit that provides free medical and dental care to adults who have no health insurance. In 2008, County Executive Larry Walsh appointed him to the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors for a five-year term. Ross continues to serve as career counselor and presenter for Future Leaders Institutes presented by the American Association of Community Colleges. He is active civically, serving on the boards of the Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center and Cornerstone Service Inc. He also serves as the chair of the board of trustees at University of St. Francis. J.D. enjoys traveling with his wife.

Natalie Miller



THEN

Natalie Miller began teaching at JJC in September 1971 in the English Department at a time when classes were held in temporary buildings on campus and Houbolt Road was little more than a gravel trail. Over a career of 36 years, she taught college reading and study skill classes and children's literature. She was instrumental in helping to establish the Academic Skills Center where hundreds of students were assisted in study and test-taking strategies. She also was a coordinator for the Adjunct Faculty Center for 25 years.



NOW

Since retiring in 2007, Miller has time to read, garden, and enjoy her family. She volunteers at the Will Grundy Medical Clinic, serves as choir director of her church, and as a church office volunteer at her summer home in Minnesota where she spends several months each year. She maintains close ties with JJC through visits to the Fitness Center, the greenhouse, the culinary arts offerings and attendance at Fine Arts events. She also contributes to an endowed scholarship through the Foundation. She is enthusiastic about the new facilities on campus and applauds how far JJC has come!





Jerry E. Lewis

THEN

Jerry E. Lewis was professor of music and chairman of the Music and Fine Arts Department at Joliet Junior College for 33 years. His teaching duties at JJC included applied brass, jazz history, and conducting. He founded and conducted the 90-member JJC Community Band for 26 years. Lewis drafted the self-study of the JJC music program for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music in 2002, with accreditation approved in November 2002.

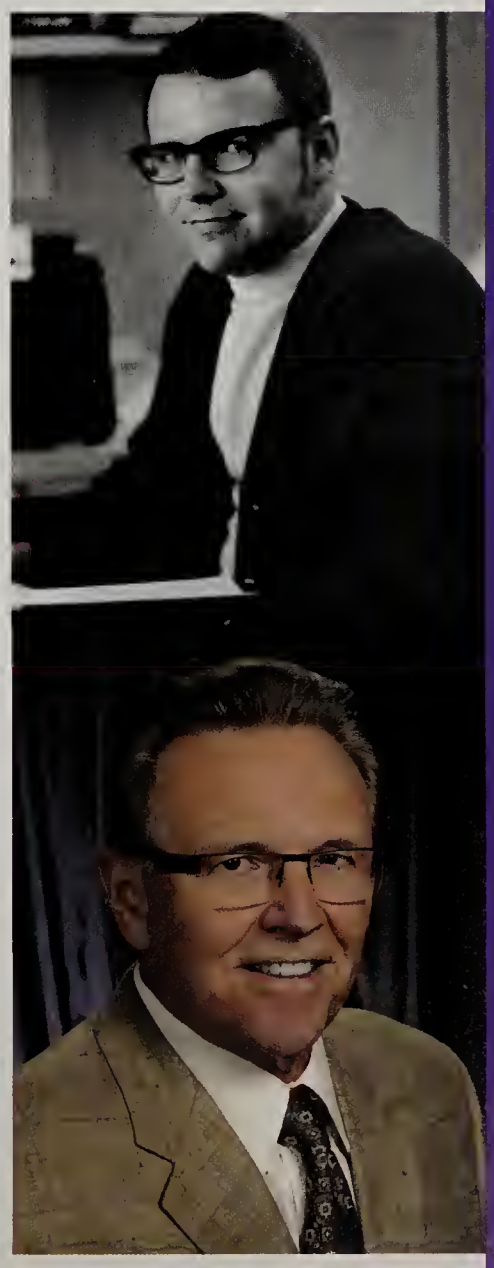
NOW

Lewis is currently president of the Joliet Junior College Annuitants Association, an organization which works for the improvement of pension and health benefits for retirees, survivors, and current JJC employees. Lewis has been married to his wife, Jane, for 47 years. They have a son, Chris, a daughter-in-law, Lindsay (both JJC alumni), and two beautiful grandchildren, Hunter and Haley.

Dr. Robert Sterling

THEN

Dr. Robert Sterling was hired in the fall of 1967 as a full-time history instructor. Three years later, he was elected chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, a position he held for 30 years until his retirement in 2000. When he left his full-time position, Sterling was named part-time director of the college's new Distance Education Department with responsibilities for developing JJC's online course program. In 2001 when the college celebrated its historic centennial anniversary, Dr. Sterling was asked to capture and preserve JJC's rich history in the book Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College.



NOW

When Dr. Sterling retired in 2007 from his position as director of the Distance Education Department, he and his wife Jo Ann moved to Colorado to be closer to family, especially to grandchildren John and Juliet. Even though he now lives 1,000 miles from Joliet, Bob continues to teach online history classes for the college. This year marks the 45th year that he has taught history at JJC. He still enjoys interacting with students and developing creative ways to teach history online. Sterling simply smiles and shrugs when asked if he plans to celebrate 50 years of teaching at JJC.

News Briefs





Rob Ninkovich speaks at a youth summer camp at the college in 2007.

JJC Alum Rob Ninkovich in Super Bowl XLVI

Former JJC football player Rob Ninkovich got his first taste of NFL glory in Super Bowl XLVI as an outside linebacker for the New England Patriots. Although the Patriots lost to the New York Giants, Ninkovich sacked opposing quarterback Eli Manning, forcing the Giants to settle for a second consecutive field goal.

Before his six seasons in the NFL, Ninkovich, a Lincoln-Way Central High School graduate, began his collegiate football career at JJC. He was a member of the 2002 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division III national championship team for the Wolves his freshman season.

"The best option for me was to go to JJC," Ninkovich said during an interview that aired on Comcast SportsNet the week of the Super Bowl. He added that he had difficulty getting field time in Division I football, and was "still wearing his high school pads."

The summer before his sophomore year at JJC, Ninkovich worked as an ironworker with his father, hanging beams on a Chicago construction site near I-57. According to his father, the purpose was to give his son extra incentive to complete his college education. In his Comcast interview, Ninkovich said that hanging steel with his father made him "really appreciate everything" that athletic success has awarded him.

During his sophomore season at JJC, Ninkovich set the sack record with 16, which still stands today. After a successful two-year run with JJC, Ninkovich received a scholarship to Purdue University where he was an All-Big Ten selection his senior season. He was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in the fifth round (135th overall) of the 2006 draft.

In 2007, he was claimed off waivers by the Miami Dolphins. After a two-year stint in Miami, Ninkovich went back to New Orleans for spring workouts before signing as a free agent with New England in 2009.

During the 2011 NFL season, Ninkovich had his best statistic season of his career, recording 74 tackles, 2 interceptions and 6.5 sacks while starting all 16 games.



JJC Professor Bill Johnson accepts his Philanthropist of the Year award.

JJC Professor, College Donor Honored at Annual South West Suburban Philanthropic Network Event

A Joliet Junior College professor and a major college donor were honored in November 2011 at the South West Suburban Philanthropic Network (SWSPN) 5th Annual Awards Breakfast for their longstanding philanthropic efforts and support of the college.

JJC Professor Bill Johnson was honored with the Philanthropist of the Year and W.W. Grainger, Inc. was honored with the Corporate Philanthropic Award.

In the past 42 years, Johnson has dedicated his time to mentoring students in the classroom and has also been a long-time supporter of the JJC Foundation. In 2010, Bill joined the foundation's board of directors, and continues to sacrifice his time to support the foundation through recruiting activities, scholarship selections, and donation collections. Over the years, Bill has donated nearly $180,000 to the college.

W.W. Grainger, Inc. was honored with the 2011 SWSPN Corporate Philanthropic Award. Over the last three years, JJC has received over $50,000 from W.W. Grainger, Inc., a generous supporter of JJC's Technical Department through equipment enhancement and student scholarships.

In July 2011, the college received a $15,000 donation for the college's Automotive Technology program, which provided the program with funds to purchase a hybrid car, as well as tools and equipment to service the car. Since 2008, the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship program has supported JJC students with scholarships.

Along with an initial $2,000 in scholarship funds, student recipients also receive a 396-piece master set of tools, valued at approximately $1,500, which is customized to the student's area of expertise. This program assists full-time, second-year students enrolled in a technical program pursuing an associate degree or licensed certification in heating/air conditioning, plumbing, welding, automotive, construction, or other industrial trade.

2011 J. D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award Recipients Honored

Anthony Ray and Dr. Albert Ray, recipients of the JJC 2011 J. D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award (ESA) were honored publicly at the September 13 Board of Trustees meeting.

The annual J. D. Ross ESA is the highest honor bestowed by the college and was developed by the Board of Trustees to honor community members who have given outstanding service to Community College District 525.

Dr. Albert Ray has resided in the Joliet area for nearly 50 years. As a volunteer and active member of his church, Grace United Methodist, he has played an instrumental role in the community.

He is currently a board member of the Will Grundy Medical Clinic, which provides free medical and dental services to individuals who do not have health insurance or the ability to pay for health care. He is also the chair member of the Medical Advisory Committee and works with the Will-Grundy Medical Society.

Dr. Ray also served as a board member of United Way of Will County from 1982 to 1985, and was president of the board of directors of the Joliet Area Community Hospice from 1984 to 1990.

Over the years his contributions have been recognized through numerous awards including Joliet Area PTA Council Lifetime Membership Award for Community Service in 1970, Joliet and Will County Project Pride in 2004, Mark Gibson Community Leadership Award in 2005, and the Silver Cross Sehring Medal of Excellence for Outstanding Health Care service in 2008.



Dr. Albert Ray and Tony Ray received the 2011 J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award. Both were honored at the September Board of Trustees meeting.



The college offered its first Exercise is Medicine programming in the fall of 2010, which included a series of physical activities and demonstrations, including step aerobics on the Bridge.

JJC Debuts Successful Exercise is Medicine Initiative

Joliet Junior College's Natural Sciences and Physical Education Department kicked off a new initiative recently in an effort to show the importance of physical activity to overall health and in the prevention and treatment of chronic illnesses.

The program, called Exercise is Medicine, is a national effort led by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) that JJC Physical Education Professor David Opon learned of at an ACSM Health and Fitness Summit and Exposition.

"The concept of wellness has been generally recognized since the 1960s, but it has gained a greater focus within the past 10 to 15 years," Opon said.

The college offered its first Exercise is Medicine programming in the fall of 2010, which included a series of physical activities and demonstrations, including Zumba, Butts and Guts, kickboxing, Pilates, step aerobics, and Boot Camp. This year, in conjunction with the college's library, the initiative will shift its focus from physical demonstrations to informative sessions. Topics include an overview of the Exercise is Medicine initiative and its relationship to the seven dimensions of wellness, women's health, social media and its role in health and wellness, body image in the media and advertising, and sleep and the correlation in obesity.

Opon would like to expand offerings, including the addition of new group activities, setting up an Exergaming demo, and asking local physicians to give presentations about the importance of prescribing exercise to help patients with chronic illnesses.

In addition to the college's participation in the initiative, Opon has created three health and wellness podcasts, which can be found on the college's webpage at www.jjc.edu.

"I hope with this series of podcasts to provide individuals with a better understanding of their own health, and to also showcase JJC's Natural Science and Physical Education Department and the college's Fitness Center," he said.

JOLIET
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1901



2011 annual report



Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for post-secondary education.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Financial Highlights

The financial highlights of the district are as follows:

- The district's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net assets increased 20.9% over the course of the year. State and federal revenue increased 30.6% primarily due to a construction grant from the state and despite the economy, construction in the district increased property tax revenue by 3.5% in fiscal 2011.
- Overall revenues were $137.6 million, $17.8 million more than expenses of which $2.4 million of this increase is unrestricted.
- Total costs increased by approximately 3.0% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, student financial aid passed through the district and the on-behalf pension contribution from the state of Illinois.
- Net tuition revenue increased by 8.1%. This was due to a 10.8% increase in the tuition and fee rate combined with 10.7% increase in credit hours generated which was offset by a 38.8% increase in scholarships and tuition allowances.

JJC Financial Fast Facts

- The average full-time JJC student can save $14,000 by attending JJC for the first two years of college instead of a four-year public university and more than $40,000 over a four-year private university.
- JJC awards over $26 million annually in federal, state, and institutional financial aid. More than 65 percent of that amount is made in the form of non-repayable grants and tuition waivers.
- Thousands of students receive financial aid based on need every year at JJC. In 2009-10, JJC awarded nearly 3,000 federal Pell Grants and more than 1,900 state MAP grants.
- It is estimated the current Facilities Master Plan will generate 8,000 new jobs in the district through the direct and indirect impacts of construction and the college's ability to produce more graduates.
- JJC has received the Government Financial Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2011	2010	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$173.6	$139.7	$33.9	24.3%
Capital Assest, Net	121.4	68.2	53.2	78.0%
Non-current Assest	15.2	76.5	(61.3)	-80.1%
Total Assets	310.2	284.4	25.8	9.1%
Current Liabilities	43.4	32.7	10.7	32.7%
Long-Term Liabilities	163.8	166.5	(2.7)	-1.6%
Total Liabilities	207.2	199.2	8.0	4.0%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	43.7	35.5	8.2	23.1%
Restricted	21.3	14.1	7.2	51.1%
Unrestricted	38.0	35.6	2.4	6.7%
Total Net Assets	**$103.0**	**$85.2**	**$17.8**	**20.9%**

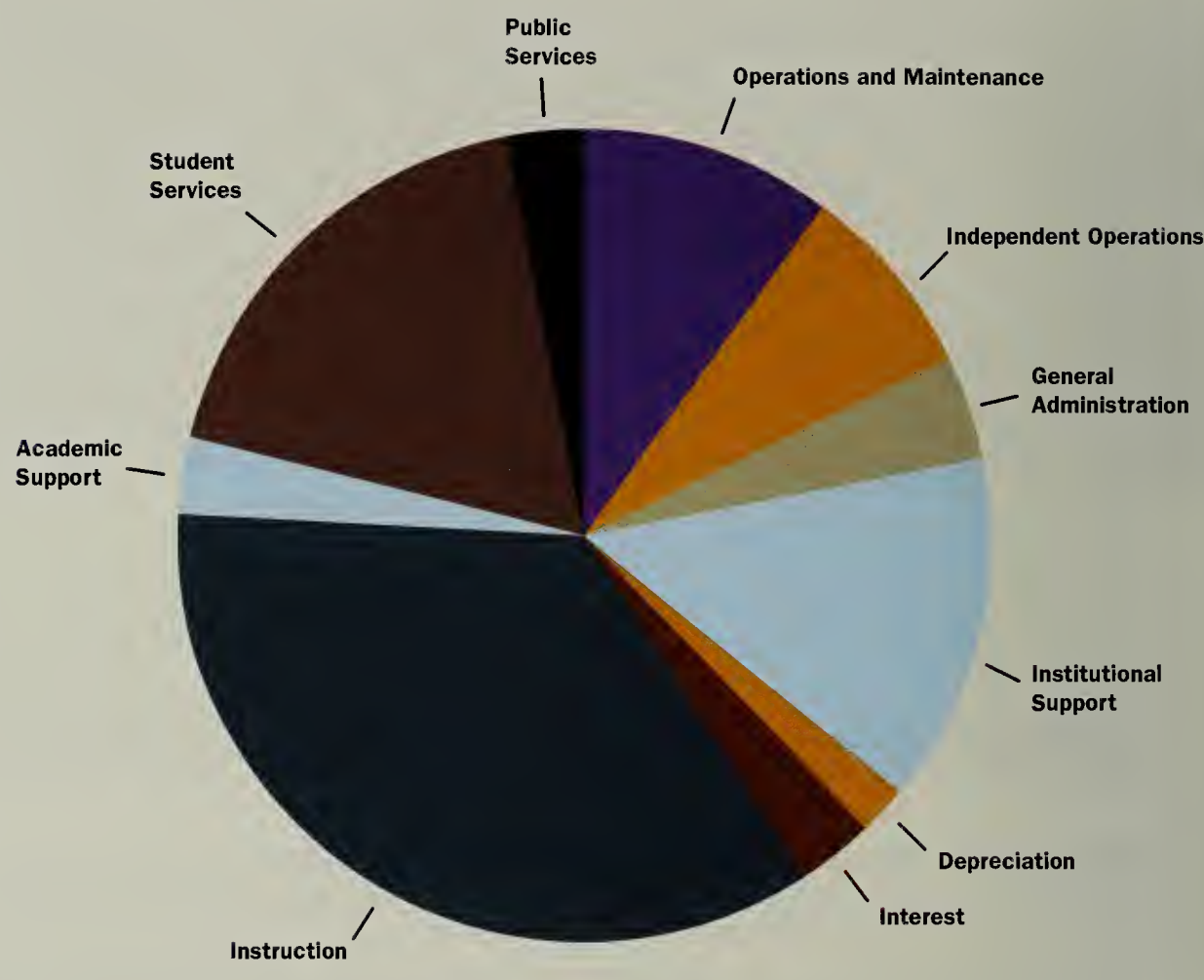
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $119.8 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $62 million or 52 percent of total expenses.

	2011	2010	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$41.6	$35.7	$5.9	16.5%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(13.6)	(9.8)	(3.8)	38.8%
Net Tuition & Fees	28.0	25.9	2.1	8.1%
Sales & Service Fees	8.8	8.9	(0.1)	-1.1%
Miscellaneous	1.4	1.5	(0.1)	-6.7%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	47.1	45.5	1.6	3.5%
State & Federal Sources	48.7	37.3	11.4	30.6%
Other	3.6	4.3	(0.7)	-16.3%
Total Revenues	**$137.6**	**$123.4**	**$14.2**	**11.5%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	43.5	40.1	3.4	8.5%
Academic Support	3.4	3.1	0.3	9.7%
Student Services	12.9	12.3	0.6	4.9%
Public Services	2.2	3.0	(0.8)	-26.7%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	11.7	13.1	(1.4)	-10.7%
Independent Operations	9.4	9.3	0.1	1.1%
General Administration	4.6	4.3	0.3	7.0%
Institutional Support	21.3	19.0	2.3	12.1%
Depreciation	3.1	3.0	0.1	3.3%
Interest	7.7	9.1	(1.4)	-15.4%
Total Expenses	**$119.8**	**$116.3**	**$3.5**	**3.0%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$85.2**	**$78.1**		
End of Year	**$103.0**	**$85.2**		
Increase in Net Assets	**$17.8**	**$7.1**	**$10.7**	

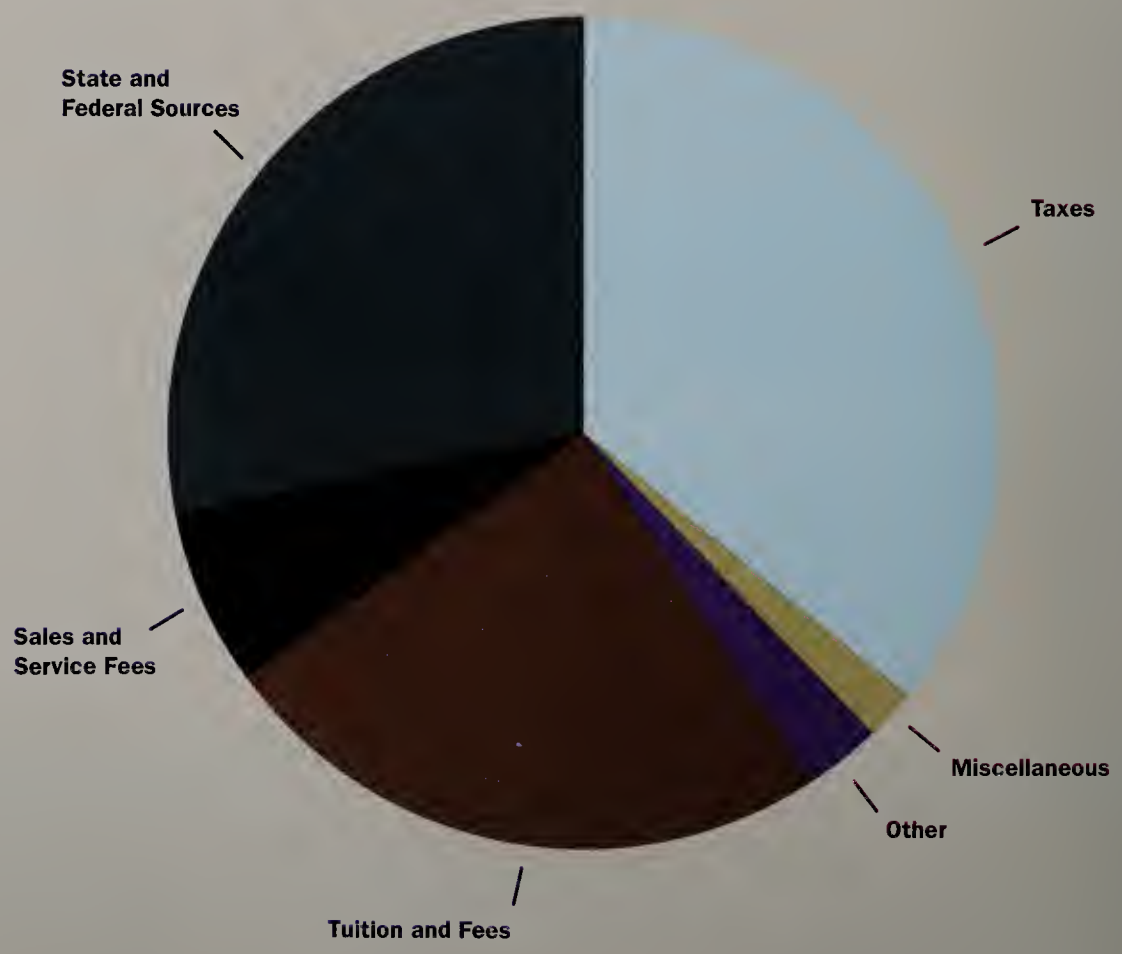
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2011

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	10%
Independent Operations	8%
General Administration	4%
Institutional Support	18%
Depreciation	2%
Interest	6%
Instruction	36%
Academic Support	3%
Student Services	11%
Public Services	2%



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2011

Taxes	34%
Miscellaneous	1%
Other	3%
Tuition and Fees	20%
Sales and Service Fees	7%
State and Federal Sources	35%



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Michael P. Guglielmucci

Foundation President

On behalf of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Joliet Junior College Foundation. Your financial contributions have allowed our students to receive $743,110 in scholarships. Also, we were able to award scholarships to high school seniors from all 30 feeder high schools in District 525.

In addition to scholarships, the JJC Foundation funds grants that provide equipment and programs that support JJC students and the college's mission to enrich people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. Thanks to the generous philanthropy of individuals, businesses and organizations teaching and learning at Joliet Junior College can prosper.

For more information about gift opportunities, contact Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or visit **www.jjc.edu/about/foundation**.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Guglielmucci
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2011 and 2010]

	2011	2010
Total Current Assets	$16,360,091	$13,725,103
Capital Assets, Net	760,905	905
Total Assets	17,120,996	13,726,008
Total Current Liabilities	1,152	49,321
Total Net Assets	17,119,844	13,676,687
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	17,120,996	13,726,008

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2011 and 2010]

	2011	2010
Total Revenues	$4,546,728	$2,175,849
Total Expenses	1,103,571	998,925
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	13,676,687	12,499,763
End of Fiscal Year	17,119,844	13,676,687
Endowment	10,135,674	9,305,477
Investments	16,131,162	13,676,881
Annual Contributions	1,596,392	745,456
Scholarships Awarded	743,110	668,043

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1901
FOUNDATION

Match your Gift to JJC

Increase your gift to Joliet Junior College through the matching gifts program. Many companies will match their employees' donations to charitable organizations.

Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/foundation** and select "Ways of Giving."

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
Fax: 815.280.6618

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
815.280.2353

2012 Spring Events at JJC

JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events

5K Run/Walk: May 5, 9 a.m. is the One-Mile Kids Race (12 and under), 9:30 a.m. is the 5K Run/Walk. To register, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k

JJC Commencement: May 18, 6 p.m. at Lewis University

GR2012 - Celebrating Sustainability Festival: May 19, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. A free family event focusing on healthy families and sustainable communities.

31st Annual Alumni Brunch

May 20, 11 a.m.
Cost is $30 per person.

For more information, call (815) 280-2328.





Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts

Gallery Exhibition - Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition: May 1- 11

Jazz Band Spring Concert: May 4, 7:30

Community Band Spring Concert: May 6, 3 p.m.

Speech Team Performance - The Open Book: May 11, 7 p.m.

Chorale Concert - Chamber Singers and Community Chorale: May 12, 7:30 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert: May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Honors Recital: May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra: May 20, 4 p.m.

Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Seasonal Skies: May 3, 6:30 p.m.

The Solar System (advanced): May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Indoor/Outdoor Solar System: May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Search for Intelligent Life: May 22, 7:30 p.m.

What's in the Sky: May 31, 6:30 p.m.

Visit www.jjc.edu/info/events for more information.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901–

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

Attending JJC led **DUANE STONICH, a 1980 graduate,** to a lifelong interest in teaching. After a 30-year career as a Joliet firefighter, he is now a full-time professor at JJC, where he trains the next generation of firefighters.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

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ALUMNI RELATIONS

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
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ANNUAL ALUMNI BRUNCH
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

FROM THE ARCHIVES
JJC YEARBOOKS NOW ONLINE

FALL 2012

Find Your Career at JJC

Allied Health

Combine medical technology and the human touch with a career in Allied Health.

Eight out of 20 occupations projected to grow the fastest are in the health care field. JJC offers a variety of programs to get you started on your new career in a field such as:

- **Nurse Assistant**
- **Phlebotomy Technician**
- **Electrocardiography Technician**
- **Radiologic Technician**

Get the training you need to become an allied health professional, and you'll collaborate with physicians and others to provide quality patient care that helps identify, prevent and treat diseases, disabilities and disorders.

**U.S. Department of Labor.*



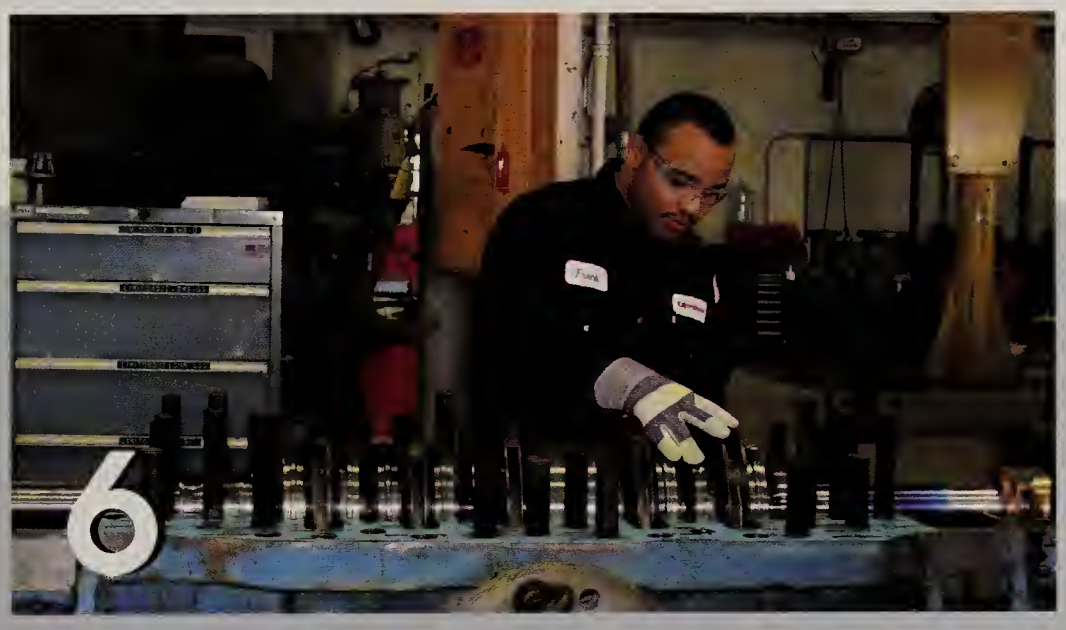
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Challenging times require collaboration, inspiration, innovation and imagination in creating excellence. With the support of the community, Joliet Junior College is the canvas where students test their creativity in a multitude of disciplines and where faculty and staff members bring innovative techniques to the learning process. The community and workforce are the gallery where graduates show their excellence, whether they are teaching young artists, drawing plans for a new building, or shaping the future.

Our numerous partnerships with business and industry across our district strengthen our programs through their generosity of equipment, money, staff involvement, and work experience opportunities.

One such example is Franklin Gulley, a JJC graduate highlighted in this issue's cover story. He came to JJC to study industrial maintenance technology, received an internship through the IMT program at Exxon Mobil, and now has a promising career with this global company. His story is one of many that are repeated throughout our district with our partners from all sectors.

We are truly proud and honored to provide world-class education opportunities for our community. On behalf of Joliet Junior College's Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, I thank you for your generous support of JJC. Together we will improve the economy of our area one student at a time.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.
President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Institutional Advancement.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.

Correction: a photo credit for Richard Ainsworth was accidentally omitted in the spring 2012 issue of Connections. Ainsworth's work was highlighted in the Q&A featuring Dr. Debra Daniels on page 5.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

If I am ever given the opportunity in a room full of people, I always ask the group to raise their hand if they have attended and/or graduated from Joliet Junior College. Without fail, a large percentage of people usually raise their hand. When the hands go up, one word usually comes to mind – IMPACT! That is what this issue of Connections is all about: the impact Joliet Junior College has on our community, partnerships, alumni and friends.

I love to chat with alumni about their time at Joliet Junior College. Whether or not the conversation is centered on impact, it always comes up in the conversation. Recently, I spoke to Dan Miner '81. Dan is the General Manager of Treasury Services at 3Delta Systems, Inc., a payment solutions company that delivers the power of secure, internet-based purchase and credit card processing solutions to enterprise, business-to-business and business-to-government customers. Dan received three associate degrees from JJC, and was president of student government while attending school here. Although Dan now lives in the Washington D.C. area, he fondly remembers the time he spent at Joliet Junior College. He informed me that when he was a student, administration arranged to turn the bridge (a student hangout) into office space. He shared that student government spent countless hours with administration to retract the plans. In the conversation, I could tell in the tone of his voice that 31 years later he was still proud of their accomplishment. The impact this experience had on him was apparent. From now on, every time I walk across the bridge and see students laughing with friends, studying, or enjoying student activities, I will remember the conversation I had with Dan in June 2012.

What impact has JJC had on you? I want to hear from you. Please email me at aquinn@jjc.edu or visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni and fill out a Reconnect with JJC form.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Cheers,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

**If you would like to receive our monthly e-Connections newsletter, please update your personal alumni information and include your email address at www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect.*

Successful Alumni

by **Amanda Quinn**

JOLIET MAYOR THOMAS C. "TOM" GIARRANTE '82

Mayor Tom Giarrante is a lifelong resident of the city of Joliet. He attended Sacred Heart Grade School, Joliet Catholic High School, and Joliet Junior College. He has been a barber in Joliet since 1961. In addition, he served as a Joliet firefighter for 22 years and acted as President of the Joliet Firefighters Local 44 for 16 years. He also served seven years on the Joliet Park Board. Giarrante is a member of numerous organizations and has participated on many committees over the years. In 1996, he was elected Joliet City Councilman-At-Large, a position he held until elected Mayor of Joliet in 2011. Tom has been married to Rosemary Giarrante nee Gale for 50 years. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

You attended JJC as an adult student with a full-time career, receiving your degree in 1982. Why did you feel it was important to earn a degree in higher education?
I attended JJC to earn a degree in fire science. I wanted to increase my skills in order to do a better job as a City of Joliet firefighter.

You have held many leadership positions in our community. How did Joliet Junior College prepare you for these roles?
The JJC class that best prepared me for my political career was Speech. This class not only helped me get accustomed to speaking in front of people, it taught me the dos and don'ts of speech. One thing I remember is the professor pointing out how frequently presenters say "ah," or "and, ah," which is something one should concentrate on avoiding. One of my speeches was on how to play blackjack.

Joliet Junior College has changed a lot since you graduated. We have built many new buildings and our enrollment continues to grow. What change are you most excited about?
As Mayor of Joliet, part of my vision is the resurgence of the downtown. JJC's commitment to develop a Culinary Arts Department in this area will jump-start additional development downtown and greatly enhance my vision. The presence of JJC downtown will not only bring additional people to downtown, but it will expand a much needed program in our community, the Workforce Development Program. This program will go a long way in educating students on what careers are available and preparing them for those careers.

Please share your favorite memory from your time at JJC.
While I was a student at JJC, I discovered many other firefighters from Joliet and other departments were attending classes there as well. I particularly enjoyed the discussions we had as we compared other fire departments.

Is there anything else you would like to share?
As Mayor of Joliet and a lifelong resident, I am extremely proud to have JJC – an outstanding educational institution and significant employer – located within the city. As America's oldest community college, JJC has changed the lives of generations of students as it prepared them for higher education and a stronger future. As an employer, it continues to offer tremendous career opportunities that are close to home for teachers and staff alike. Joliet is clearly a better place because of JJC.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

the impact of partnerships

by **Rachel Rose**



Franklin Gulley had a decent, steady, full-time job in 2009. But when he wanted to move to a different position within his company in the maintenance department, he learned that he needed a degree in that field. So he came to JJC to study in the industrial maintenance technology (IMT) program – a decision that changed his life.

During his first semester in the program, Gulley heard about an internship opportunity at Exxon Mobil through a unique partnership JJC's IMT program has with the global oil and gas company. He decided to apply for it, despite the fact that it would mean leaving his full-time job.

Every spring, students in the IMT program have the opportunity to apply for two internship positions at Exxon. After filling out the application, taking Exxon's employment test and going through interviews, the two students selected begin their paid internships working 20 hours a week during the school year, and then 40 hours during the summer.

"It's a fantastic program that gives our students real-world work experience, and it's also beneficial for Exxon since we provide them a reliable source of qualified, trained workers," said Dr. Jeff Bradford, IMT program coordinator. "Even if some of our interns don't get hired by Exxon, having an Exxon internship on their resume gives them a significant advantage when applying for other jobs."

The opportunity for JJC students to get an internship and a possible career at Exxon Mobil is just one example of the many valuable partnerships JJC has with businesses and companies throughout the community.

Whether through scholarship money, internship programs or equipment-sharing agreements, these relationships can impact the success of students in finding a good career and the success of the organizations in finding qualified employees.



> "My last employment was just a job – JJC's partnership with Exxon led me to a career."
>
> *- Franklin Gulley*

JJC graduate Franklin Gulley at work in the Exxon Mobil machine shop.

"JJC has partnerships with many organizations that are incredibly supportive of our students through scholarships, workforce training, internship programs, and other ways," said Kristi Mulvey, executive director of resource development. "They understand the value of investing in the education of trained, skilled workers."

For Gulley, applying for the Exxon internship was a risky venture: he'd have to leave his current job and take on an internship for less pay, all while his wife was pregnant with their second child at the time.

"But I knew this was a field I wanted to get into, so it was worth it," he said.

When the interview process was completed, Gulley learned he had been given one of the two available spots.

After his eight-month internship in the Exxon machine shop, Gulley was hired in a full-time position with the company as a machinist in February 2012. In his job he maintains all rotary assemblies in the field such as pumps, gear boxes, fans and compressors – a position that he says JJC prepared him for very well.

He now enjoys the security of a great job he enjoys going to every day, and which also allowed his wife not to work.

"My last employment was just a job – JJC's partnership with Exxon led me to a career," he said.

Bradford said that in fact, many former interns from his program have gone on to full-time employment with Exxon, and that during the company's annual hiring process, when an average of 2,000 people apply for positions, JJC interns are at the top of the list of candidates.

JJC programs such as nursing, radiologic technology and orthotics and prosthetics have partnerships built into their programs that are a necessary component of degree completion, and which are also valuable investments for the organizations as well since it provides them with highly skilled workers that are greatly needed.

One of the key partnerships the orthotics and prosthetics program maintains is



Radiologic technology students learn the latest techniques with Bob Verkler, professor and program coordinator.



Instructor Robert Wahlen works with a student in the OPT lab.



with Advanced Orthotic and Prosthetic Solutions, a Hickory Hills-based orthotic and prosthetic manufacturing facility. Many JJC O&P students complete their externships here.

"The partnership between JJC and Advanced O&P Solutions provides students with the opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in the field as well as providing a potential employment opportunity," said Mike Brncick, OPT program coordinator. "The benefits are mutual and significant."

Advanced O&P completes about 100 jobs a day, giving the students exposure to working with a wide variety of orthoses or prostheses, in comparison to smaller companies that may only complete four or five jobs a day.

Mike Angelico, president of Advanced O&P and chairman of the board of the OPT program advisory board at JJC, said that the partnership his company has with JJC is highly beneficial to his company as much as it is to the students who participate in the program.

program began, and seven are currently working for both Advanced O&P and its parent company, Scheck and Siress.

Bob Verkler, professor and program coordinator for Radiologic Technology, says that without the clinical affiliations he's established with local hospitals and medical offices, the program could not possibly be what it is today.

"Clinical education at the hospital is essential," Verkler said. "Students have to gain competency in 50 different procedures, and while they learn about those in the classroom and laboratories here, there's nothing like performing the actual procedures working alongside practicing radiographers."

He said that by giving the students experience in a variety of settings, they are well-prepared for employment as a radiographer or radiologic technologist anywhere – an advantage that benefits both the student and potential employers.

In fact, out of the 15 students who graduated the program last year, 14

program's relationships with the three large area hospitals – Provena St. Joseph, Silver Cross and Morris Hospital – are critical to student success.

"The majority of our students complete their preceptorships (the last clinical they must complete in the program) at Provena St. Joseph, Silver Cross or Morris Hospital, which have all been incredibly accommodating with students' varied schedules," she said. "Many JJC nursing graduates have gone on to find permanent employment with these hospitals."

Beyond internships, JJC has community partnerships also have a direct impact on the quality of training resources at the college.

One such example is the relationship JJC's automotive program has with Hunter Engineering Company, a leading supplier of equipment for the auto industry.

At no cost to the college, Hunter supplies the automotive program with their most current automotive

"Through our programs, we can provide the skilled workers that many companies so desperately need."

- Kristi Mulvey

"[Our partnership with JJC] is absolutely the best thing that has happened to us," Angelico said. "We get high quality workers for free for a couple of months, during which time we can see if they are a good fit to join our company."

Many have proven themselves to be ideal candidates: Angelico said he has hired 10 JJC graduates since the

are already employed in the field, and all graduates since the inception of the program in 2008 have successfully passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) registry examination.

Mary Beth Luna, department chair of nursing, allied health and emergency services, said that her nursing

equipment including tire changers, wheel balancers and brake lathes – equipment essential to training.

The program uses the equipment in classes, and in exchange, Hunter uses the JJC automotive facilities a couple of times a year to host training seminars for industry professionals.



Nursing students practice their skills with iStan and simulation coordinator Kelli Wall.

"The value of our partnership with Hunter is huge," said Jim Coleman, automotive program adviser. "At no cost to the college, we have the latest and best equipment in the field for our students to learn on. When our graduates go out into the workforce, it gives them an edge to be already familiar with the equipment they will be working on. Shops are absolutely looking to hire our graduates."

The automotive program also enjoys a partnership with Grainger, an international supplier of industrial products. Grainger supported the automotive expansion, which was completed in 2011, with a $5,000 donation toward the building and $15,000 designated for the purchase of a hybrid vehicle for the program.

Additionally, they have given the college $10,000 in scholarship money for students in the technical field.

According to data from the institutional advancement office, in terms of scholarship money alone that comes from community businesses with partnerships at JJC, students receive approximately $70,000 a year to help them further their education and pursue a career.

"We're so grateful for the partnerships JJC has with community businesses and organizations," said Mulvey. "Their generous support of our students through scholarships and other means can make all the difference between a student completing a degree or not. And through our programs, we can provide the skilled workers that many companies so desperately need."

Students develop their proficiencies while working in the new automotive technology shop.

Alumni Brunch
CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENT

by **Maggie Bieritz**



Nearly 175 alumni, retirees, faculty, staff, and friends of the college attended the 31st Annual Alumni Brunch on May 20. In addition to celebrating class reunions for 1962, 1972 and 1982, a number of awards were presented to deserving individuals, including: the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, presented to both Beulah Hoffer ‘32, professor emeritus, physical education and Philip Nelson ’78; the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame presented to Curtis Hieggelke, Ph.D, physics professor emeritus, natural sciences; and the Faculty Prestige Award recipient given to Douglas Foss ‘66, associate professor, agriculture.

“We are so pleased to be able to honor and showcase the success stories of these amazing individuals,” said Amanda Quinn, alumni relations and annual funds manager. “They all truly represent the very best of JJC and are wonderful examples of the success that can be achieved here.”

Beulah Hoffer



Professor Emeritus Beulah G. Hoffer had a teaching career that spanned from 1934 to 1974, the majority of which was spent as the chairman of the Women's Physical Education Department at both Joliet Township High School and JJC. During the Great Depression and World War II, Beulah recalls being grateful to have a job as a substitute teacher at JJC making $5 per day. Born and raised in Joliet, she was a Joliet resident for 88 years. After graduating from JTHS in 1930, Hoffer transferred to the University of Illinois where she completed a bachelor's degree in physical education, followed by a master's degree from Northwestern University. She also completed 16 hours toward a Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband Charles M. Hoffer have two sons, Mark and Charles. On July 3, 2012, Hoffer celebrated her 100th birthday.

Philip Nelson



Phillip Nelson is the 14th president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. He is president of the companies that make up Country Financial, Illinois Agricultural Service Company and the IAA Foundation. A 1976 graduate of JJC's Agricultural Production program, Nelson has been very active in community and agricultural organizations through his career. His accomplishments include state FFA Star Farmer of Illinois in 1977; American Farm Bureau Federation's National Outstanding Young Farmer in 1984; President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau from 1993 to 1999; and serving on two USDA advisory committees. In addition to his associate degree from JJC, Nelson earned an American FFA degree in 1978, graduated from the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Program in 1982, and completed the Illinois Ag Leadership Program in 1984. He and his wife Carmen operate a fourth-generation grain and livestock farm near Seneca, Ill. They have a son, Kendall, and a daughter, Rachel.

"These alumni truly all represent the very best of JJC and are a wonderful examples of the success that can be achieved here."

- Amanda Quinn

Curtis Hieggelke



Professor Emeritus Curtis Hieggelke began his more than 30 years of teaching at JJC in 1971 when he came to teach physics. In addition to teaching, Hieggelke also had a significant impact on the college through the 13 National Science Foundation grants he obtained for JJC together with other professors, which totaled more than $2 million. These grants offered opportunities for 1,304 physics teachers to attend physics professional development workshops, produced four new student workbooks, developed an assessment tool for electricity and magnetism, and provided funds for the state-of-the-art computer and video equipment for JJC's physics classes. Born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, Hieggelke holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia College and a master's degree and doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Hieggelke and his wife Estelle have four sons: Brian, Brent, Jason and Justin.

Douglas Foss



Douglas Foss is an associate professor of agriculture at JJC, a position he has held since 2002. Born and raised in the Joliet area, Foss lives on a farm where he raises grain and swine. After earning his associate degree in agriculture from JJC in 1966, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Iowa State in 1969. In addition to his teaching and farming careers, he has held various local, state and national positions in committees and agricultural associations. He helped to organize the Grundy County Corn Growers, and during his tenure with the National and Illinois Corn Marketing Boards, he assisted in obtaining federal funding for the Corn Genome Mapping initiative and traveled to Asia on a trade mission with the Meat Export Federation. Foss and his wife Yvonne have four children: Dee Anne, Brian, Anita and Kari.

Endowed Scholarship Recognizes Nelson

Honoree Philip Nelson on farming, business and the importance of dreaming big

by **Maggie Bieritz**

The Philip Nelson Agricultural Leadership Endowed Scholarship, introduced at the 2012 JJC Alumni Brunch, will provide financial assistance to students in the JJC agricultural program who also demonstrate the qualities associated with agricultural leadership.

Nelson graduated JJC's Agricultural Production program in 1976, and is currently president of the Illinois Farm Bureau while also operating a fourth-generation grain and livestock farm with his wife, Carmen, and their son, Kendall and daughter, Rachel.

Nelson reflects fondly on his time at JJC. "I was a freshman in high school when Bill Johnson, who is still a professor at JJC, twisted my arm to go there," he says. "I took him up on it, and I have never regretted it. In the two years I spent majoring in agricultural production, I met a lot of people and learned a lot. I was humbled to be named a distinguished alumnus."

As a farmer, and as president of the Illinois Farm Bureau, (which is comprised of Country Financial, the Illinois Agricultural Service Company and the IAA Foundation,) Nelson uses his JJC education every day.

"Agriculture is an ever-changing industry, but the classes you take at JJC give you a foundation to build upon. From a marketing perspective, Bill Johnson always stressed that you have to have a plan and stick with it; that was great advice. But even the most traditional courses you take will help in future years. You have to continue to respond to changing times, continue to read and stay on top of the issues; those are things you pick up when you go through a learning experience like I had at JJC. It's still as applicable today as it was in the 70s."

Nelson's community college education prepared him well for his position with the Illinois Farm Bureau. "The Bureau is required to completes federal examination," he says. "and as CEO and Chairman of the Board, I get asked a lot of questions. One gentleman from New York was talking with me, and when he looked at my background, he noticed I was a graduate of JJC. 'You're president of this company, and you didn't get a four-year degree?' he asked. I told him that the training I got at JJC, along with the common sense that my dad and grandfather instilled in me, gave me the credentials I needed. They were pretty taken aback by that; you can succeed given the training you receive at a community college."

He has remained connected to JJC over the years, by judging contests for Future Farmers of America, and as a commencement speaker. "That was interesting," Nelson says, "because I was the student speaker at my own graduation, so I've spoken at two ceremonies."

Now, a leadership scholarship has been established in his name, with matching funds provided by the person Nelson credits with encouraging him to attend JJC, Bill Johnson. "That really surprised me," Nelson says. "He's a teacher I have looked up to my whole life, and has been one of my staunchest supporters. I was almost speechless."

Agriculture is all about growth, and Nelson sees a lot of room to grow in the industry, particularly for individuals willing to reach beyond the obvious. "I think the most important thing is that you can never dream too big. You don't know when you get your degree what changes will happen in the country and around the world that will have an impact on what you do. That's especially true in agriculture, where we depend on consumers outside the U.S. just as much or more than those in the U.S. You've got to think big! Agriculture is changing more rapidly than we've ever seen, through technology and innovation. Adapting to the changes is critical, and you have to understand the basics so you can adapt; that's true in farming or any other business. It's no coincidence that an organization like the Illinois Farm Bureau is celebrating its 100th year. I think the people who preceded me in this position have adapted, and turned change into opportunity. We have to continue to do that if we're going to be successful going forward."

If you would like to acknowledge Philip Nelson's contributions to agricultural leadership, contact Kristin Mulvey, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or visit: www.jjc.edu/about/foundation.



"Agriculture is an ever-changing industry, but the classes you take at JJC give you a foundation to build upon."

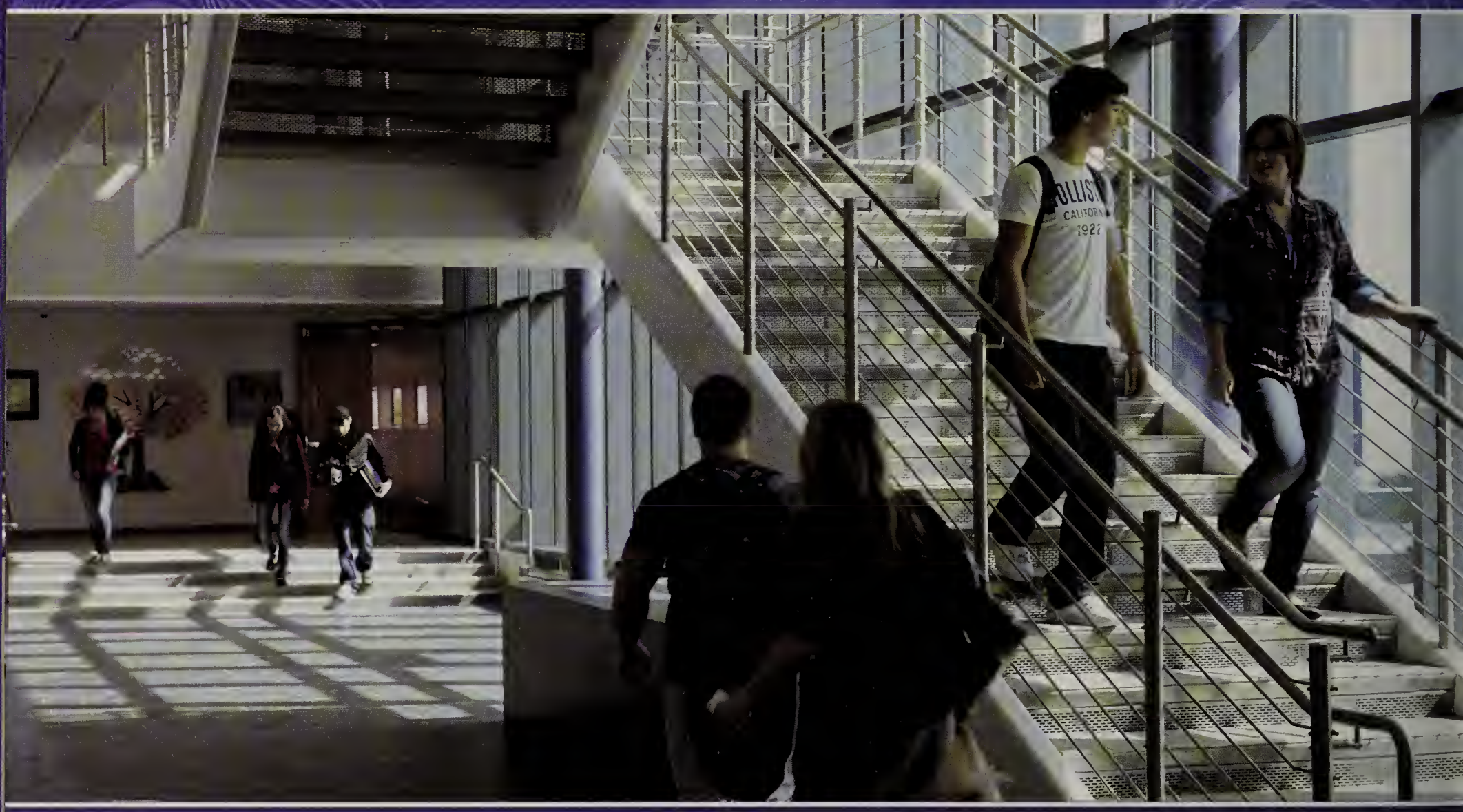
- Philip Nelson

Philip Nelson, left, stands with JJC Professor Bill Johnson at the 2012 Alumni Brunch after the Philip Nelson Agricultural Leadership Endowed Scholarship was announced.

It's a Natural

Step into E-Building, the new and renovated home of Natural Sciences on the Joliet Junior College campus, and one thing is perfectly clear: **this is not science like you've ever seen it before.**

by **Maggie Bieritz**



Step into E-Building, the new and renovated home of Natural Sciences on the Joliet Junior College campus, and one thing is perfectly clear: this is not science like you've ever seen it before.

The renovation and the new building together create a unified space that meets the current and growing needs of the biology, chemistry, geography and physics departments. The building itself is a functional work of art, with a nod to industrial-style design comprised of organic materials. Glass, steel and stone are used liberally in the common areas, and an abundance of natural light can be found along the hallways, spilling into classrooms via high windows.

The rooms themselves were designed with one goal in mind: ease of learning. Many lab spaces make use of rounded tables – gone are the days of harsh corners – where students can gather around and work on experiments.



The building itself is a functional work of art, with a nod to industrial-style design comprised of organic materials.

The student workspaces – or "pods" – were designed by a lab architect specifically for Joliet Junior College; you won't currently find anything like it on any other campus, anywhere in the world.

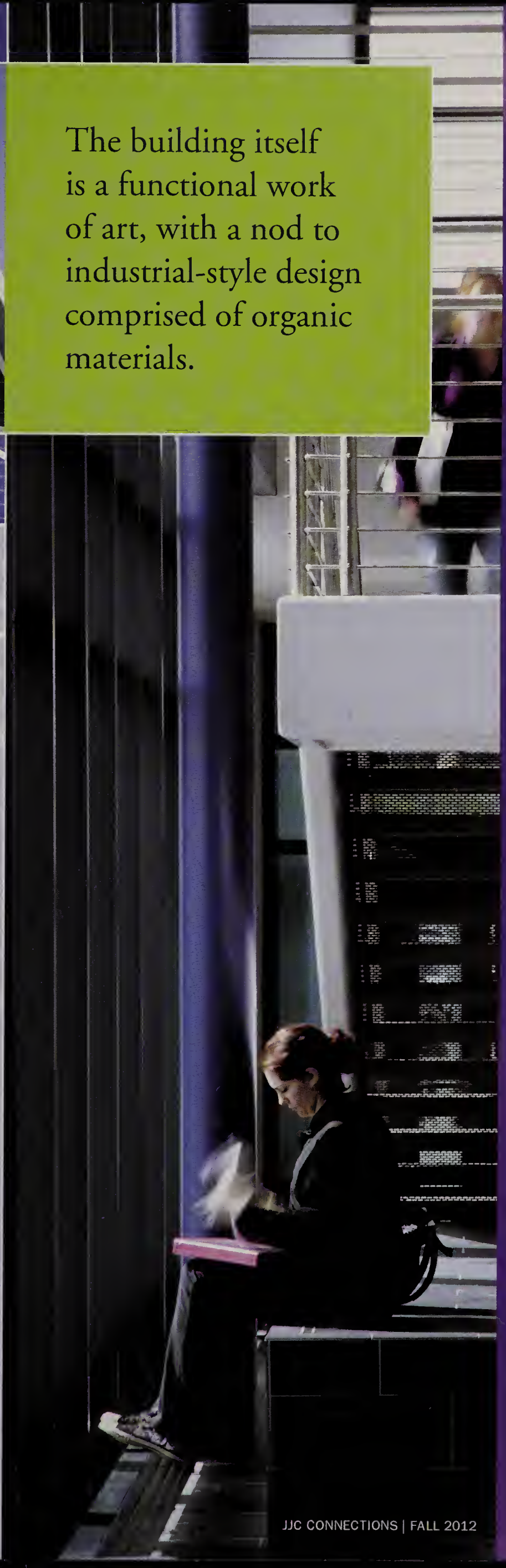
"The architects really listened to us when we shared our wish lists," said Chemistry Professor Marie Wolff. "We gave a lot of thought to what we needed, and what students would benefit from the most."

The end result is both practical and beautiful, with room to accommodate more students and allow instructors to work both efficiently and effectively. Natural Sciences Department Head John Griffis agrees.

"Many of the rooms function as both lab and lecture space, with plenty of room for students to spread out around the tables," he said. "From their workspace, students can easily see the board and any screens or projections."

Attention to detail is obvious, especially in the labs. Tabletops are comprised of solid-surface materials, similar to the Corian you might find in a new kitchen. In the labs that warrant it, a sink has been incorporated right into the workspace, and the use of solid-surface materials means there are no gaps or caulk to be damaged or soiled by any of the materials students might be working with. It's as easy to clean as it is beautiful. In labs where ventilation is important, down-draft exhaust fans have been incorporated into the tabletop, keeping the air safe to breathe and relatively clear of strong odors.

Storage has also been incorporated into the lab tables, so the tools a student needs are always close by. Microscopes, for example, are housed in drawers right where students need them. Instead of carrying equipment from one side of the room to another, it can easily be retrieved from the cabinet. Students can also store books under the table, so they are out of the way during lab but accessible during lecture.

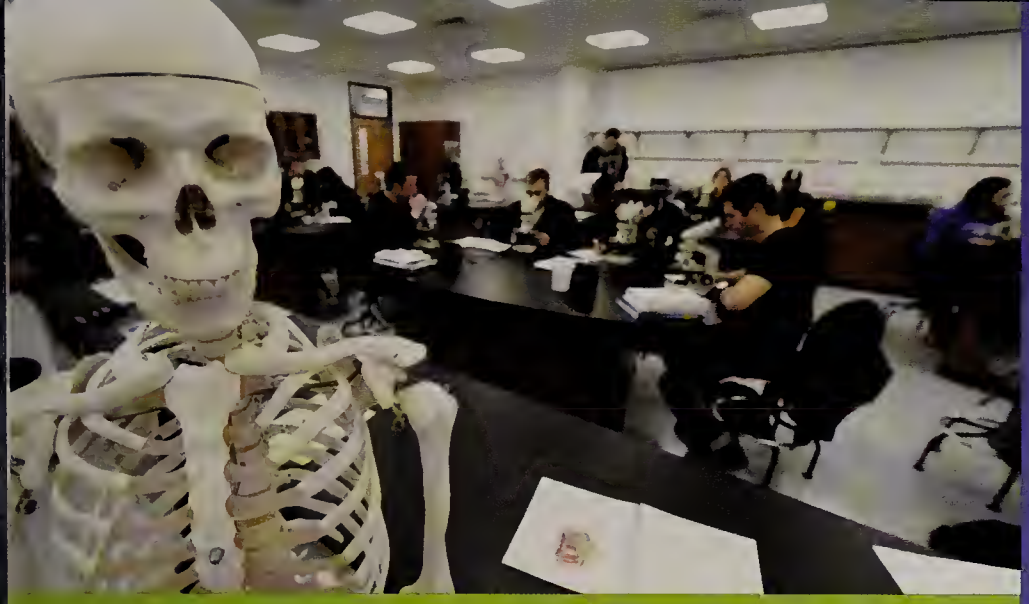


"Because our space has grown, we're able to offer more classes, and people have been able to register for the classes they want, when they want to take them. They can follow their plan, and get on with their program."

- John Griffis



Many lab spaces make use of rounded tables – gone are the days of harsh corners – where students can gather around and work on experiments.



Further enhancing the student experience, there are gathering spaces throughout the common areas of the building, creating space to sit and compare notes, or wait for friends to finish class. Display cases have also been integrated into the common areas, using space that might otherwise have gone unused.

Because classes in the Natural Sciences Building are required for many courses of study, in the past classes have reached capacity very quickly, sometimes filling up the day registration opens. That was not the case with fall 2012 registration.

“It’s alleviated a lot of the backlog for students, particularly for classes like anatomy and physiology, or Biology 250,” Griffis says. “Because our space has grown, we’re able to offer more classes, and people have been able to register for the classes they want, when they want to take them. They can follow their plan, and get on with their program.”

The building now provides a total of 60,000 square feet of space, including 21 labs, 10 classrooms, and prep areas that allow instructors to get ready for class behind the scenes, keeping classrooms and labs free for learning.

“It’s amazing how cramped we were for prep space before,” says Griffis. “We used to have to squeeze past each other on our way to class. Now, the lab supervisors have enough room to get lost.

“It’s been a really exciting process and not without its challenges,” he adds. “But when you go through all the planning phases, and you see it start to unfold, when it finally comes together, it’s all worthwhile.”

Because it’s part of a JJC campus, being both functional and beautiful isn’t enough. Special care has been taken to ensure that the newly built portion of the Natural Sciences Building promotes sustainability, too. Designed for LEED Silver certification, it includes green features such as a white roof to reflect sunlight (now standard for new JJC buildings); fixtures that use 20 percent less water than their less-efficient counterparts; abundant natural light throughout the building;; and attention to construction processes, using recycled or regionally created materials to reduce our carbon footprint.

People: Then and Now





Margaret Cockbill

THEN

Margaret Cockbill began teaching at Joliet Junior College in the fall of 1967. She spent one year at the downtown campus before moving into the temporary buildings at the new Houbolt Road campus. During her time at JJC, Margaret taught English 101, as well as American Literature 103 and 104; she also served as an academic adviser to elementary and special education students. After teaching for 26 years, Margaret retired but continued to teach as an adjunct instructor until 2004.

NOW

Since retiring in 1994, Margaret has been able to spend time with her family and friends. She is actively involved in many organizations, including Woman's Study Club, Woman's Club, King's Daughters, and Friends of the Library. She is also involved in her church, and investment and bridge clubs. Margaret has had many amazing travel adventures to places including Turkey, Australia, Canada, Papua New Guinea, China, most of Europe, Machu Picchu, the Galapagos, and Alaska. Last year, she was privileged to be on Honor Flight 6/29 to D.C. (WWII Wave). Recently, she helped plan the 70th class reunion from Joliet Township High School.

John Corradetti

THEN

John Corradetti came to the Joliet Township High School and Junior College in 1952 to develop a work experience program for high school seniors and junior college sophomores. When the new Junior College District 525 became a separate entity in 1967, he was chosen to head the Business Department and served as the first college union president of the new local chapter of the American Federation of Teachers. He served as Business Department chairperson for 30 years, taught accounting classes, and worked in the development of new courses and programs for both the college transfer and two-year programs.



NOW

At the age of 69 and after 42 years of service to the high school and junior college districts, John Corradetti retired in 1994. For the next 11 years he served as founder and president of the Joliet Junior College Annuitants Association, an organization devoted to the improvement of pensions and health benefits for all JJC retired employees and survivors. As past president of the local chapter, he chairs the Survivors Assistance Committee and is a member of six other committees. Today at the age of 87 he enjoys time spent with his wife of 64 years, four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.





Dr. John Peterson

THEN

Dr. John Peterson began his tenure at JJC in 1976. For eight years he wrote grants and completed research projects as an administrator at the college. John helped develop the Total Fitness Center and later served as a faculty member and director of the center for 19 years. The center was later renamed the John M. Peterson Total Fitness Center by the JJC Board of Trustees in his honor. Dr. Peterson majored in biology/chemistry at Northern Illinois University, where he was a two-time All American in Track and Field and held the NCAA three-mile record.



NOW

John has been doing volunteer work for eight organizations. He would like to find more time in the next few years to train for his passions, which are age group competitions in the 5000 meter run and sprint duathlon (run 3.1 miles, bike 15 miles, run 3.1 miles). Besides training, he spends a lot of time on injury prevention and rehabbing minor injuries. John says, "Winning is not the goal; the journey is the mission here – it is fun." John and Melanie, his wife of 39 years, live in Crest Hill.

Dr. Carolyn M.T. Engers

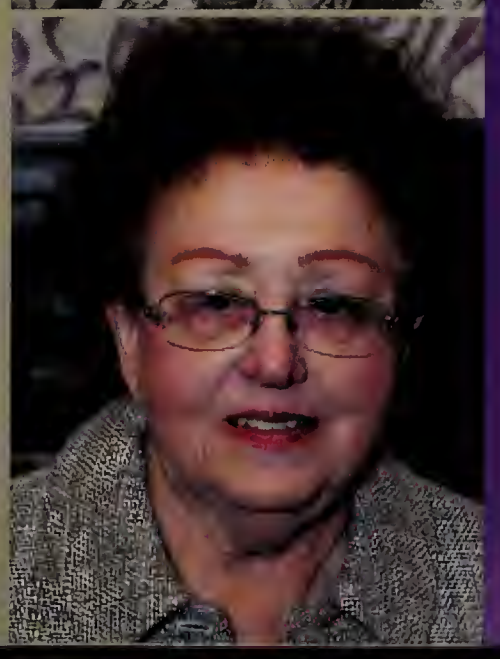
Dr. Carolyn M.T. Engers graduated from Joliet Township High School, and attended JJC. She began working at Joliet Junior College in 1968. She worked as the Dean of Counseling and the Registrar at the college. She retired in 2000, after working at the college for 32 years.

THEN



NOW

Since retiring, Dr. Engers has been extremely busy in her volunteer efforts. She currently serves on the Board of the JJC-Annuitants Association (JJC-AA), where she chaired the legislative committee and lobbies to state and federal legislators; she chaired the social security committee for the State Universities Annuitants Association. Dr. Engers also currently serve as legislative chair for AARP-Prairie View Chapter-Lockport Park District, where she lobbies both state and federal legislators on senior issues. She is also facilitating AARP's "You've Earned A Say" conversations, which identifies ideas for keeping Social Security and Medicare strong for the future. Beyond volunteering, Dr. Engers enjoys scheduling and eating at a variety of restaurants with her "Lunch Around" group; attending the movies, theatre and senior functions; doing crossword puzzles; researching items on the computer; listening to "Big Band" music; flower gardening; shopping and traveling.



News Briefs



The music program's new Steinway piano.

Campaign brings new Steinway piano to JJC music program

On Sunday Sept. 9, JJC held the Steinway Dedication Concert to celebrate the college's music program's newest addition—a seven-foot, 760-lb. Steinway piano.

The college received the piano on March 6 and it has already been used in Music Viva concerts, as well student recitals and honors recitals, said Dr. Daniela Broderick, associate professor of music. It will also be used in master classes and lectures.

"Students will have the chance to play the piano during recitals," Broderick said. "It's a standard of excellence in pianos ... we are giving our students the opportunity to learn how a great instrument feels, responds and sounds."

The $66,449 piano was purchased entirely with funds raised through the JJC Foundation's Steinway Piano 88 Key Campaign that began in January 2010. The campaign raised funds by selling individual piano keys (88 total) for $750 each.

In addition to the campaign, a benefit concert was held in March. The concert consisted of performances by faculty, alumni, students and guests, including a vocal performance by 2010 American Idol singer and JJC alumna Paige DeChausse.

"It's a really good time for our music program," said Broderick.

Receiving the piano was just one of the exciting changes JJC's music program has recently undergone. The program has also moved from its former space in K-Building to the newly renovated third floor of J-Building.

Broderick added that she would like to thank all the individuals who supported and got involved with the campaign, making it possible to purchase the piano.

"We are really excited about showcasing our new piano to all of the donors and to the community at large. It is really a reason to celebrate," said Broderick. "I want to take this opportunity to once more than the JJC Foundation, all of the donors, and all of those who keep coming back to our concerts."



Steinway donor recognition plaque



GR2012 was a big success thanks to the participation of several community partners.

GR2012: Celebrating Sustainability Festival

JJC hosted the 3rd annual GR2012: Celebrating Sustainability Festival on May 19, transforming the Main Campus into a local farmers' market and festival.

The daylong event celebrated and explored sustainable practices, technologies and initiatives. The goal of the festival is to encourage the community to live a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle, said Jeanne Phelan, GR2012 organizer.

The fest featured various activities for the whole family including: 75 exhibitors, nearly 20 speakers, demonstrations, entertainment, tour of JJC's natural areas and LEED certified campus, alternative vehicle display, farm animal petting zoo, large reptile exhibit, and Grand Picnic Community Party.

This year's event was the first held at JJC. Prior to JJC, both GR2010 and GR2011 were held at the Joliet Public Library.

"GR2012 was larger and more expansive than years past and we plan to continue growing the event now that it has found the perfect venue on JJC's campus," said Phelan.

The event is a collaborative effort of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Joliet Public Library, Will County Land Use - Waste Services Division, Joliet Job Corps, City of Joliet, Joliet Junior College, University of Illinois Extension - Will County, Joliet Park District, Joliet Public School District 86, and Joliet Township Government.

"The response from the Joliet community was extremely positive regarding all areas of the event," Phelan said. "The City of Joliet was especially grateful and happy with the outcome and outreach."



Festival participants chat at one of the many GR2012 demonstration tables.

She adds that the success from this year has already led to interest from community members and sponsors for GR2013.

"Plans for next year include the JJC Culinary Arts Department ... we are hoping to partner chefs with local farmers ... this promises to take GR2013 to yet another level," said Phelan.

For information about GR2013, visit www.celebratingsustainability.com.



JJC President Dr. Deb Daniels presents a female runner with her medal.

4th Annual 5K Raises Funds for Scholarships

The college hosted its 4th Annual JJC Foundation 5K Run and Walk on May 5, raising more than $35,000 for student scholarships.

The event kicked off with a one-mile kids race followed by the adult 5K run and walk.

Over 200 individuals completed the 3.1-mile race, which took place on JJC's scenic Main Campus, and Will County Forest Preserve paved trails.

"This year we added a race for kids, which attracted more families," said Kristi Mulvey, JJC director of resource development.

The top overall male and female received a $100 cash award and the top three men and women in each five-year age category received medals. JJC President Deb Daniels, who also participated in the 5K, presented the winners with their medals.

The race is an opportunity to welcome community members to campus while raising funds for student scholarships, said Mulvey. This year's event raised five times that of the college's first race in 2009. Since then, the event has raised more than $83,000.

"Our vision for the future of the 5K Run and Walk is that it becomes an annual event for the whole family," Mulvey said. "We want our event to be one of the premier races for area runners to participate in while financially supporting our students."

Mulvey added that she would like to thank all the race participants and the community partners who made the 5K such a great success.

THANK YOU

TO OUR 5K SPONSORS



Joliet Junior College Foundation
5K Run and Walk – Sponsors
Saturday, May 5, 2012

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

by **Andrew Lenaghan**

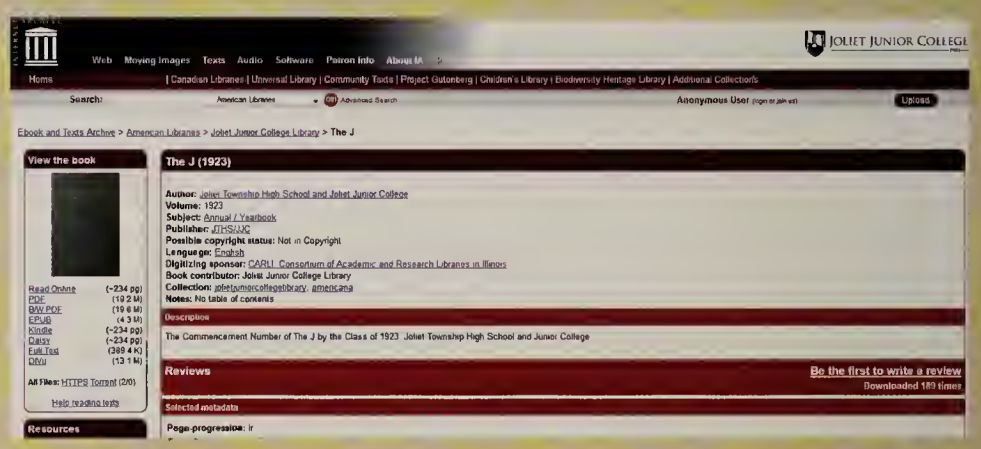
DISCOVERING THE HISTORY OF JJC THROUGH DIGITAL PRESERVATION: THE JJC YEARBOOK COLLECTION IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Starting with this fall issue of Connections, the JJC Library will share the wonderful artifacts, ephemera, and memories it holds within its archives. For the past three years, the library has been working to create an environment where the community can access information about Joliet Junior College's prolific past. The goal of the JJC Archive is to collect, grow and sustain a space where the history of the college and its community can be preserved and readily accessed.

The strength of an institution's present is only as strong as its awareness of its past. For some, the archives hold memories of a bygone time, for others, it is a resource that provides information for historical research, but for all, it is a place where one can learn all about how Joliet Junior College came to be the nation's first public community college.

In providing access to the information in the archives, the library is working on digitizing the majority of its archival collection. The process of digitization not only preserves the material for a much longer rate, but it also allows access to all, in a quick and effortless manner. By having hosted space on the internet, anyone can see the materials in just a few clicks.

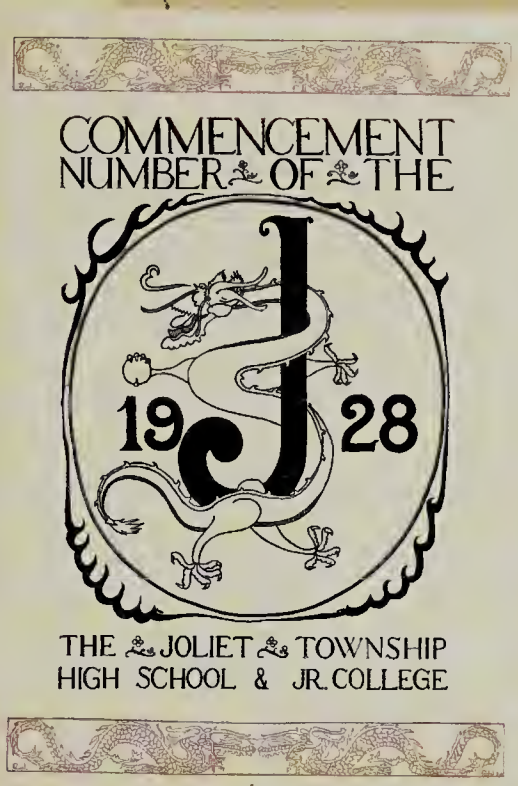
In choosing a collection to begin the digitization process, it was our thought that we start big. The college's yearbook collection is, by far, the largest collection in the archives, as well as, the most popular. With a grant awarded by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, we were able to have the entire collection digitized during the spring and summer of 2010.

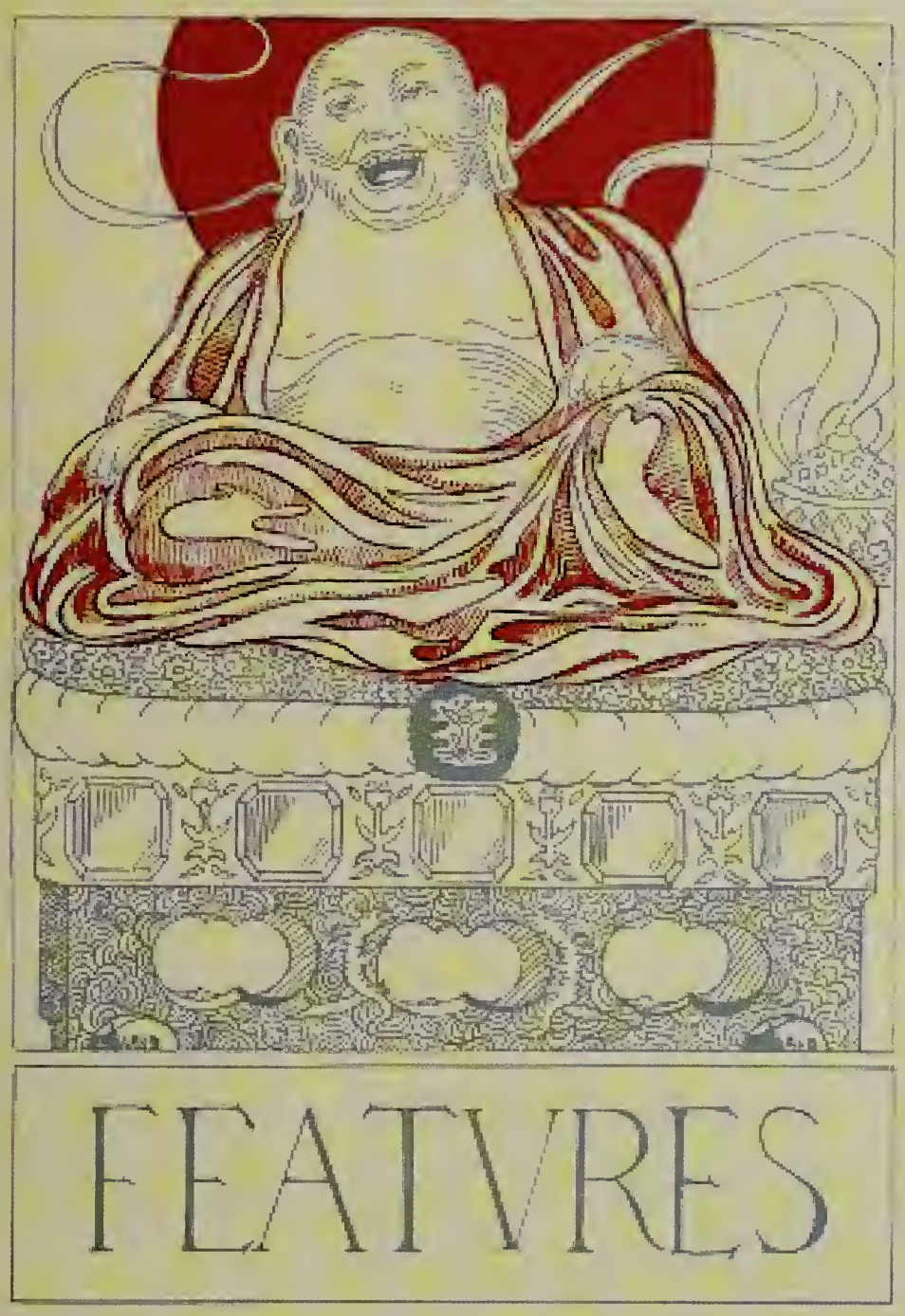


This screen shot illustrates the database that holds all of the digitized yearbooks. To access the online archive, visit www.archive.org/details/jolietjuniorcollegelibrary

During the first six decades of its existence, JJC shared building space with Joliet Township High School, which today is the location for the Joliet Central Campus. In 1968, the college split from the high school and transitioned to temporary buildings on recently acquired farm land off of Houbolt Road, which would become the permanent site of the Main Campus. Through it all, there was always an almanac —the yearbook—documenting the events that happened during the past school year. These yearbooks are not only a glimpse into the rich past of a national educational landmark, but an exhibit of change – a

The front page of the 1928 yearbook illustrates the inclusion of both the high school and junior college.



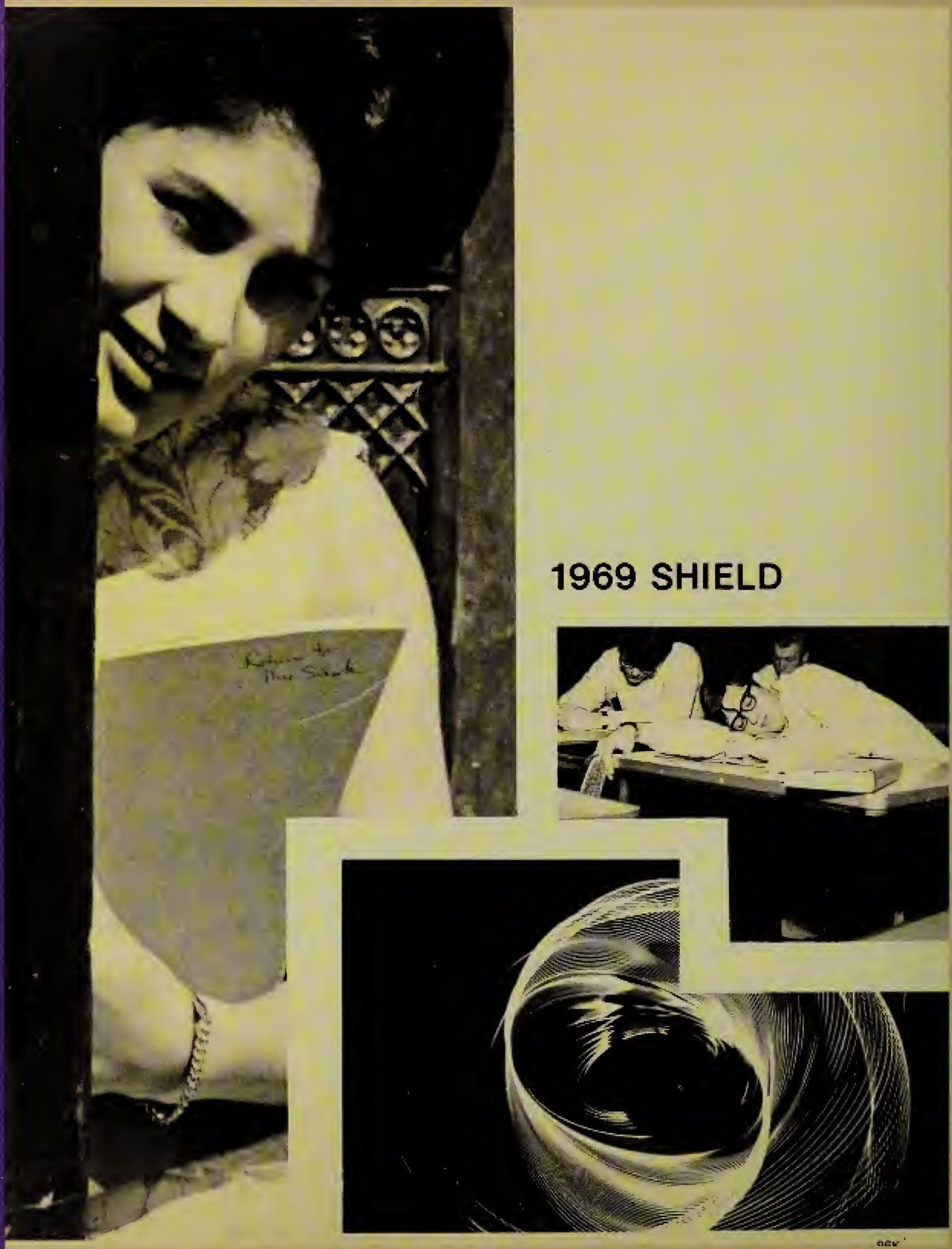


FEATVRES

Features title page from the 1928 "J." Digitizing historical documents allows for the preservation of materials. In this case, the subtle colors used in an Orient-themed page are still present after nearly a century



Introduction page for the student photos. Not only does color get preserved in digitization, but we can now have wide access to documents that show trends in students' interests. Here, we see the use of greek lettering and a quote from Socrates, telling us "One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing."



Title page for the 1969 Shield, showing that the development of technology allows the students to become more creative with their graphic layouts, which from the photo, seems to wear some of them out.

transformation that not only happened to the students within JJC, but the physical existence of JJC itself.

The first years of the yearbooks are shared between the students of Joliet Township High School and Joliet Junior College. Typically, the high school students would occupy the first portion of the book, leaving the latter half for the JJC students. "The J," as it was known, is still the name of the yearbook for Joliet Central students today. In 1945, JJC students began printing their own yearbook. "The JJC Diary," was composed in a similar manner to that of "The J," but included more abstract student writings on the state of life after finishing at Joliet Junior College. This feeling of undefined opportunities that the students held would be a common theme throughout all the yearbooks.

In 1947, "The JJC Diary" changed to "The Shield;" a name which would stay with the JJC yearbook until it ceased publication in 1977. The Shield grew with the population of the school. As more students began to enroll

Within the temporal environment of education, there will always be dedication to emphasizing the importance of exploration and the pursuit of knowledge.

at Joliet Junior College, the bindings became larger. Starting in 1948 with 86 pages, The Shield ended in 1977 with over 150 pages – doubling in size with only 29 years between the first and last copy.

In those years, we see the college grow from a section within a high school, to its own massive campus. We see changes in the faces – students and faculty, changes in the buildings, and changes in fashion. But from 1923 to 1977, this document shows one constant: Within the temporal environment of education, there will always be dedication to emphasizing the importance of exploration and the pursuit of knowledge.



An aerial view of the newly completed JJC Campus on Houbolt Rd., in the 1973 Shield.

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Andrew Lenaghan, Associate Professor, Librarian

Joliet Junior College Lbrary
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: 815.280.2534
email: alenagha@jjc.edu

JOLIET
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1901
FOUNDATION

Match your Gift to JJC

Increase your gift to Joliet Junior College through the matching gifts program. Many companies will match their employees' donations to charitable organizations.

Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/foundation** and select "Ways of Giving."

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
Fax: 815.280.6618

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
815.280.2353

Joliet Junior College Calendar of Events

JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

Dec. 5, 2012
Alumni Employee Holiday Reception

Feb. 7, 2013
LinkedIn and Online Networking Event

April 11, 2013
JJC Foundation Donor Dinner/Scholarship Recognition Event

May 4, 2013
5th Annual Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K Run/Walk at Main Campus
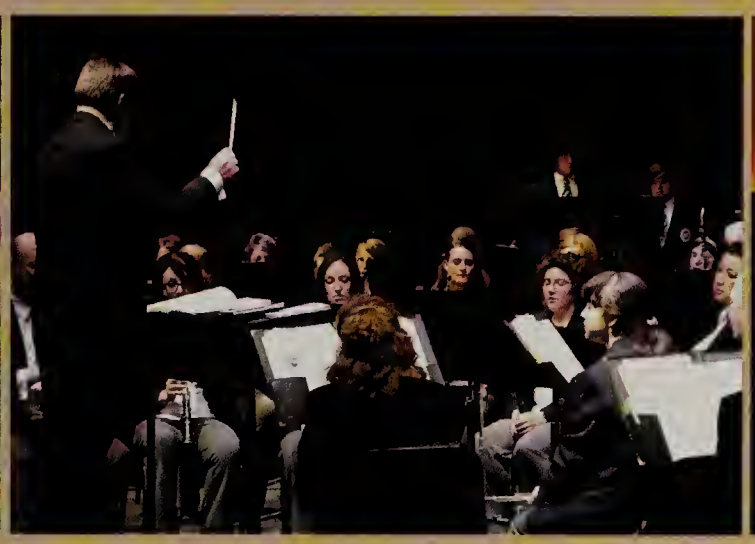
May 17, 2013
Commencement

June 1, 2013
GR2013 at Main Campus

June 2, 2013
32nd Annual Alumni Brunch at Main Campus

For more information about alumni events, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events**







Fine Arts Events

Nov. 13 - Dec. 7
Gallery Exhibition: *Joliet Junior College Area High School Art Exhibition*

Nov. 15 - 18
Theatre Production: *The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare*

Dec. 2, 3:00 p.m.
Community Band Winter Concert

Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Jazz Band Winter Concert

Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Chamber Singers MadriGala

Dec. 9, 3 p.m.
Chorale Concert, *Carols and Chocolate*

Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert

Planetarium Shows

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.
The Solar System

Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m.
Colliding Objects in Space

Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Telescope Basics

Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Earth & Moon

Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Humans & Robots in Space

Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m.
Telescope Basics

Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Colliding Objects in Space

Dec. 16, 2:30 p.m.
Christmas Star

Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Star

For more information about community events, visit **www.jjc.edu/about/community-interests**

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
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As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

Green at JJC

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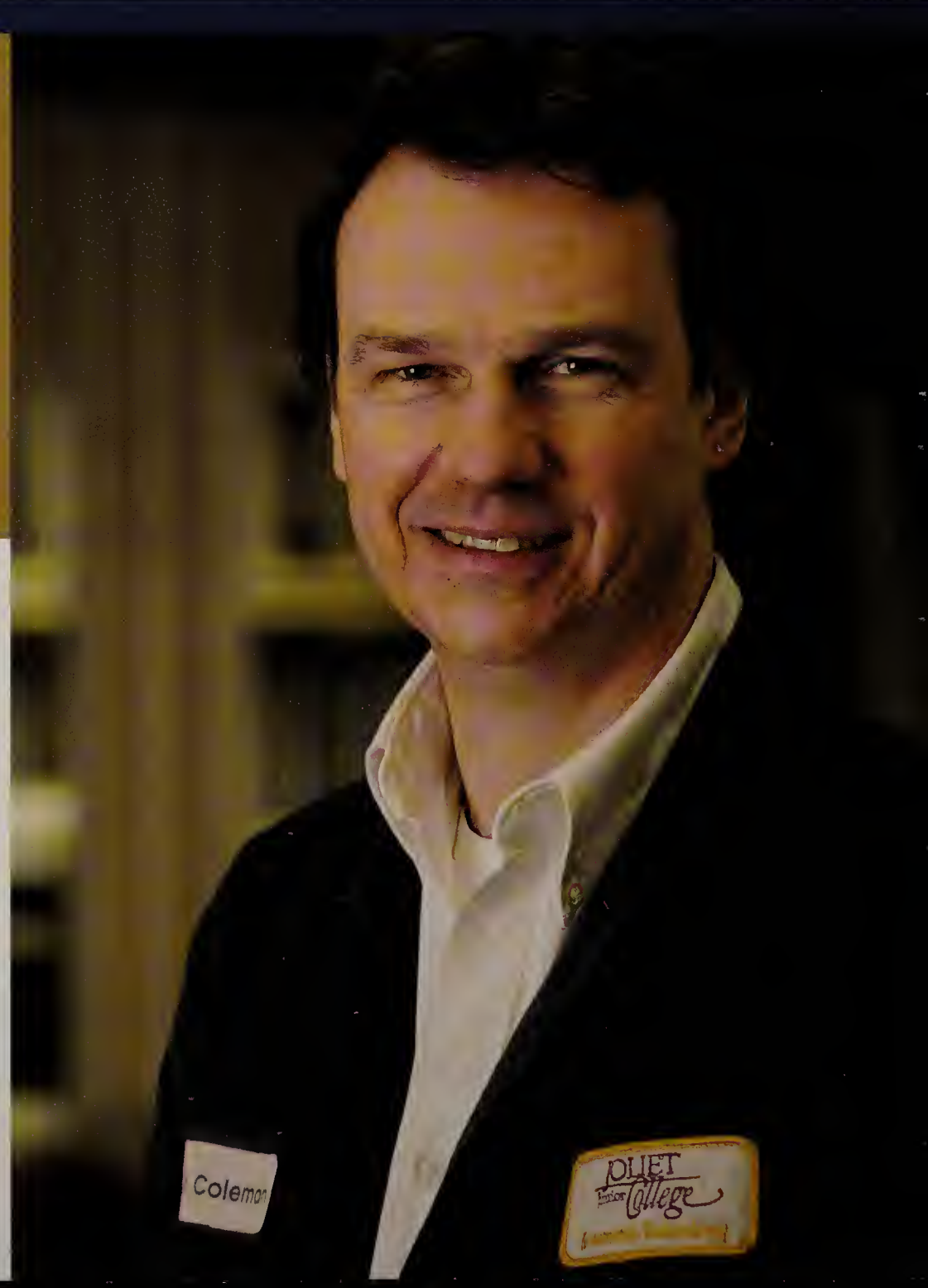
JIM COLEMAN spent 15 years in the automotive industry before returning to JJC as a nursing student in 1994. He later realized his true passion was teaching automotive service technology, and for the last 12 years, Jim has been training the next generation of automotive technicians.

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
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ALUMNI RELATIONS



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CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Reporting JJC's well-being to the community we serve.

SPRING 2013

Buy Local at the JJC Farmers Market



Every Thursday

May 23 - October 24
3 - 7 p.m.

in the JJC Greenhouse parking lot

Fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, meats, cheeses and other products produced locally.

We will accept Link cards.

This advertisement is based on work supported under by the Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, under Award No. 12-25-G-1566. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
FARMERS MARKET

The Joliet Junior College Farmers Market is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the availability of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables in Joliet.



jjc.edu/info/farmersmarket

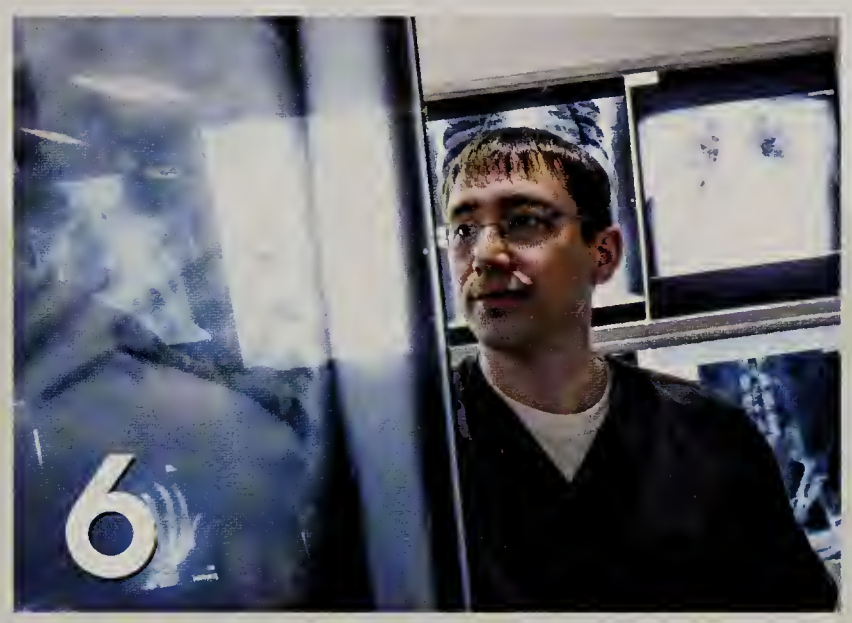
CONNECTIONS

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A Conversation with Dr. Yolanda Isaacs

We talked with the Vice President of Student Development about the importance of supporting students' hopes and dreams.



Encouraging Community Well-Being, From the Ground Up

JJC's new beautiful state-of-the-art facility with all the space and technology it takes to educate today's health professionals.



City Center Campus Breaking New Ground

JJC celebrates groundbreaking for new City Center Campus in January at the Renaissance Center in Downtown Joliet.



2012 Annual Report

Review of financials from FY 2012 for the college and the JJC Foundation.



Feeding the Soul

Finding connections between art and well-being with abundant opportunities.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,
This spring edition of Connections celebrates the financial health of our institution and the personal well-being of our students and communities.

Through good stewardship we have managed our budget through a difficult year, expanded our grant efforts, opened new facilities to serve our students and community in new ways, and found opportunities to partner with our community.

We at JJC are very proud of our efforts to improve the well-being of our district as we strive to become a world-class institution. I hope you enjoy this look at our year and celebrate with us our many accomplishments—because we are your community college.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.

President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Resource Development.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am excited about this issue of *Connections Magazine*, which focuses on ***well-being***. It gives me the opportunity to write about my favorite event at the college, the Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K Run and Walk, which takes place on Saturday, May 4. This event not only supports the college's financial well-being, it also benefits participants' personal well-being, which ultimately creates support for the district's community well-being. Since the race's inception, the event has raised more than $70,000 for student scholarships at the college.



Marie Wilson, a 1963 alumna and Alumni Board member, has run all four Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K races, and this year is no exception. When Marie, a nurse, turned 63, she chose to focus on her personal well-being. She joined the JJC Fitness Center and began running to prove to herself that she could do it. Marie often talks about high school in the late 50s, where the girls were not allowed to take part in track. So, for Marie, running is a privilege. In 2009, when the inaugural 5K took place, Marie decided to give racing a chance. Not only did Marie finish the race, she placed third in her age group and fell in love with racing and the competition. Since then, Marie has run in many community races. She also placed first in her age group at the JJC race in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

I encourage all of you to come out on Saturday, May 4, to walk or run in the JJC Foundation 5K Run and Walk. Perhaps you will find a new hobby to house your personal competitive spirit, or perchance you will do it to support the students that walk through our doors every semester. Regardless, we will be doing it together – as a community of alumni and friends! For more information on the JJC Foundation 5K Run/Walk, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5K.

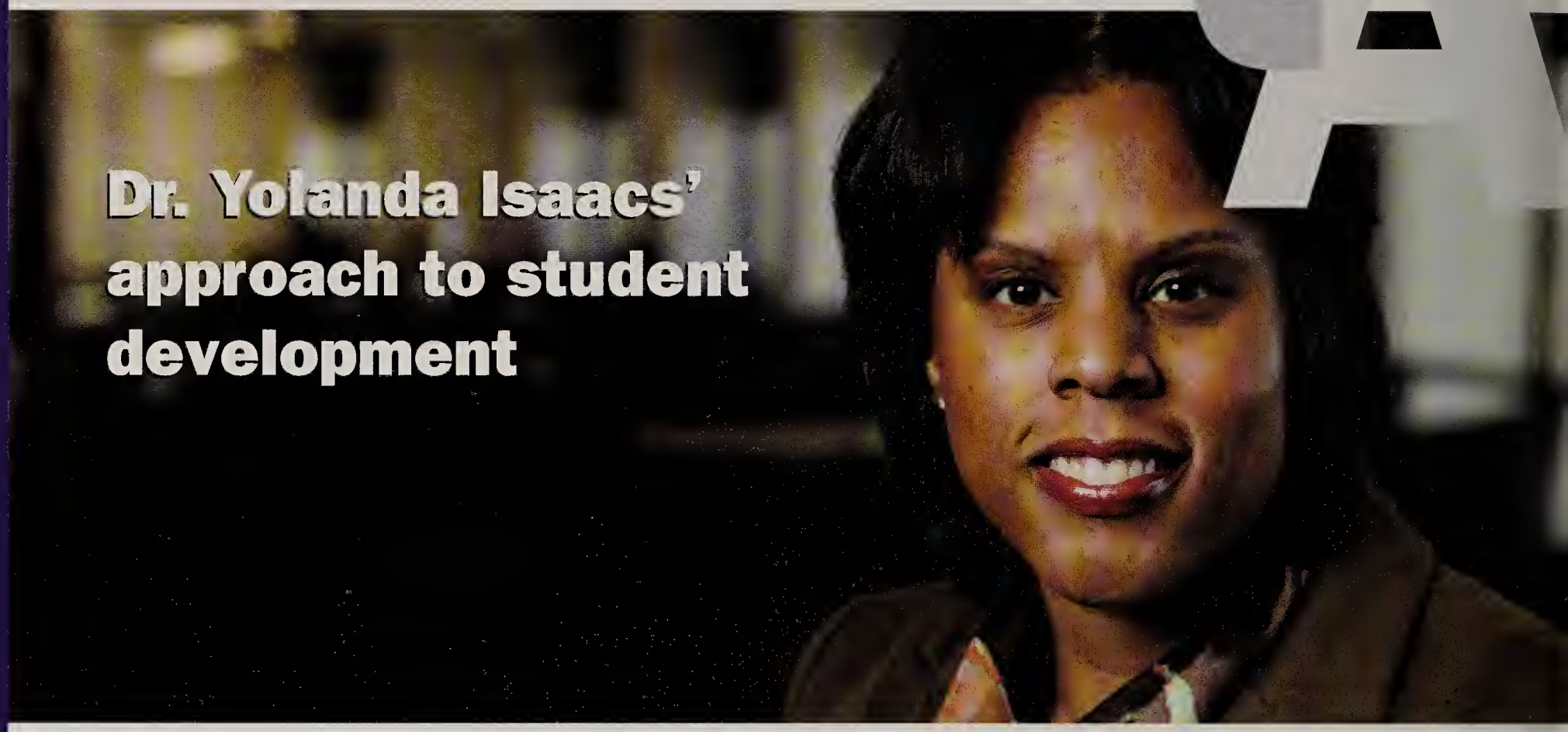
See you May 4!

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

**If you would like to receive our monthly e-Connections newsletter, please update your personal alumni information and include your email address at www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect.*

Supporting Students' Hopes and Dreams

Q&A



Dr. Yolanda Isaacs' approach to student development

Dr. Yolanda Isaacs began her position as vice president of student development in June 2012. Throughout her 18-year career, she has continuously sought positions that allow her to assist students in reaching their potential, which was evident when we sat down to talk about her approach to student development at Joliet Junior College.

JJC: Tell us about how you became interested in student development.

Dr. Isaacs: For a very long time, I thought about going to law school. But when I became a Resident Advisor in my sophomore year, I was responsible for 30 young women, helping them to develop not only academically, but personally and professionally. I embraced it; I felt like I was making an impact on these young women's lives from the beginning stages of their education. I found my calling.

Working with students and helping them meet their academic, personal, social and professional goals was so rewarding, and throughout my education and career I held onto that philosophy.

JJC: What role does education play in society today?

Dr. Isaacs: I've always believed that education is a right. I know some people think it's a privilege, and I would say it depends on what institution you attend. Everyone has the right to be educated. I believe education is the gateway to opportunities.

The reason I chose to work at a community college, and I envision remaining at a community college, is because we support hope. The hopes and dreams of students who may be different in many ways – culturally, economically, socially. We provide open access to all students, and I think we have positioned ourselves very well to provide that support for our students.

What is amazing about Joliet Junior College is our historical roots; we are the first, so from my perspective we should always be the best. And when our students enter our doors, it's accessible, it's open, and we welcome all.

JJC: How does JJC help to meet some of the unique needs of students today?

Dr. Isaacs: We serve a very diverse, complex student population. We see all different types of students, from all different walks of life. In the past, educational institutions were only concerned about academic success, wanting students to receive a degree and do well in the classroom, and that's where it ended. But today, we've moved past that. Now, I consider academic success to include professional success and personal success.

From entry through graduation, we provide a pathway, a type of guidance for students to make good choices. This makes us unique among community colleges.

JJC: To what degree is finishing a program important?

Dr. Isaacs: What we have to keep in mind with the mission of the community college is that not all students are here to complete a degree or a certificate. We have recent high school graduates who are just starting their journey, and we have adult students here for professional wellness or personal growth. Our population is very different compared to a four-year institution; we meet a greater variety of needs. But as far as why I think it's important to complete a degree, I will always tell a student that if you complete an associate degree, you'll earn more money. Statistically speaking, it's a financial advantage. But also, when you're in college for a period of time, you're exposed to so much in life. You'll interact with so many different students. The student next to you in class might be a single mom. The person behind you might be an international student. The person in front of you may have just graduated from high school and is preparing to move on to a four-year institution. The exposure you receive during the time you're in college is very significant. I tell people, if you have the opportunity to receive an

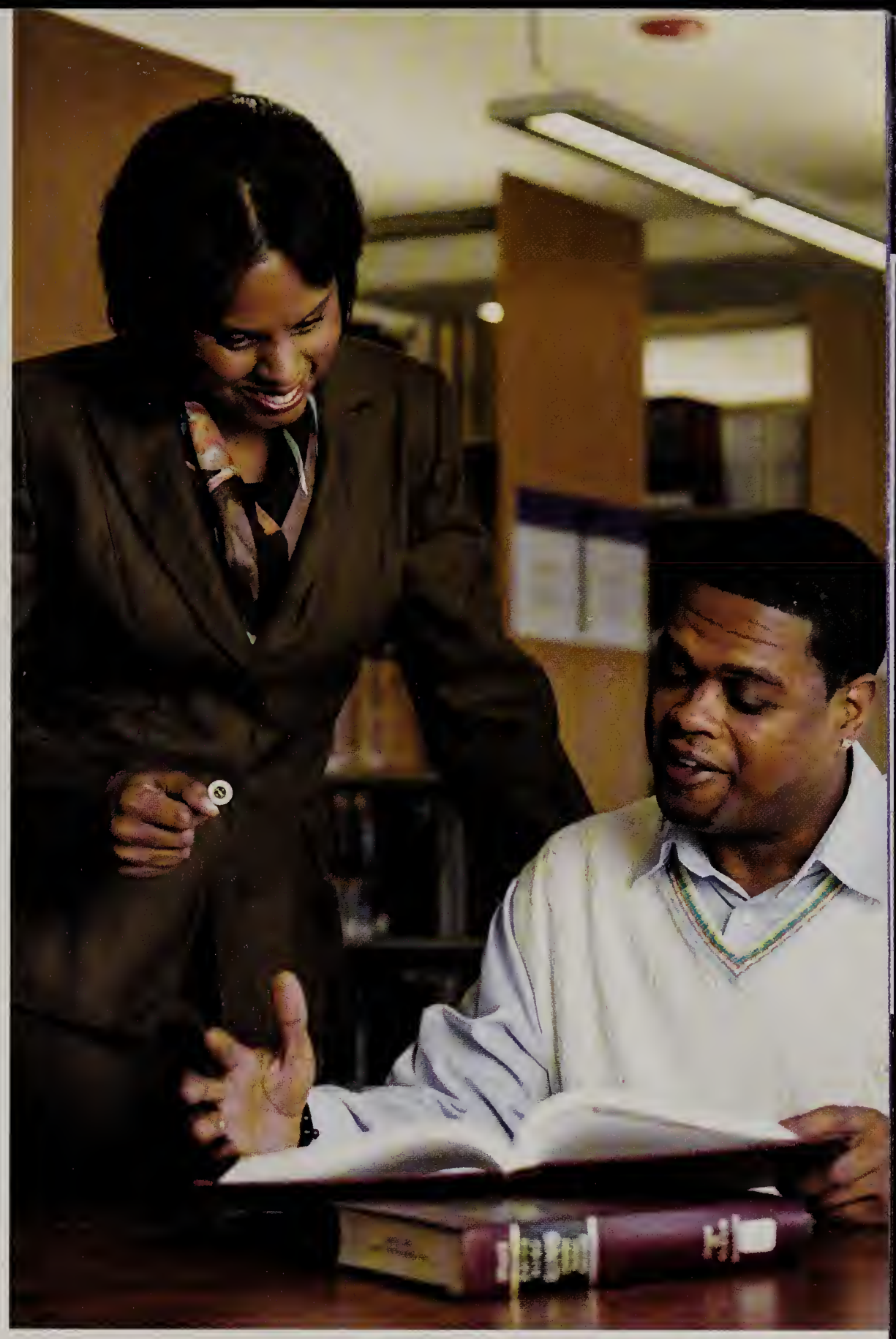
"We provide a pathway, a type of guidance for students to make good choices. This makes us unique among community colleges."

Dr. Yolanda Isaacs

associate degree, and then transfer and receive a Bachelor's degree, not only are you providing wealth in terms of financial contribution to your family, but you're also providing an opportunity for you to grow as an individual.

Think about your experience in college. It was academic, but when you think back, you remember the holistic experience – your interactions with friends, your involvement in leadership opportunities, involvement in clubs, sororities or fraternities, becoming educated by your surroundings as much as the classroom experience.

We live in a diverse society, and we can now serve as more than an educational arena. We can help students grow in more ways than just academic; we are providing students an opportunity to experience life in a community college setting, preparing them for all the world has to offer.





Encouraging Community
Well-Being,
From The Ground Up



Imagine transitioning from temporary space in a trailer, or classes that were scattered throughout Main Campus, to a beautiful state-of-the-art facility with all the space and technology it takes to educate today's health professionals.

That's what students and faculty are experiencing in the new Health Professions Center, which opened for classes in January.

The Health Professions Center was designed to help JJC serve the needs of our high-demand nursing, allied health, and emergency services programs. In addition to increased academic space and improved equipment, the Center will allow the college to expand into other allied health fields, based on employment needs and labor market demands.

Enter the facility from the main entrance, and you may feel as if you've walked into a fire station or hospital, and that's by design. The center was planned to create many realistic training areas, such as hospital rooms and an apparatus bay (which houses the JJC ambulance and fire engine), and even an apartment setting, to give students practice extracting a patient from home. "We're giving students a true 21st-century learning environment," said Cecile Regner, Dean of Nursing, Allied Health and Emergency Services. "We now provide the best learning environment for nurses and other health-related careers in the state."

Even Before the building was officially open, students began coming in and immediately felt comfortable in the gathering spaces, comfortable seating areas designed for quiet studying or relaxing between classes. Staff

and faculty are enjoying the new space, too, with ample natural light and art features complementing the stunning surroundings. The building provides a perfect blend of beauty and function.

Katie Fazio, Healthcare Continuing Education Training Manager, agrees. "We have these large, beautiful classrooms with lots of natural light," Fazio says, "which create a positive learning environment." Fazio says that prior to the opening of the Center, CPR classrooms were held in close quarters in a trailer. "The amount of space and light we now have makes a big difference."

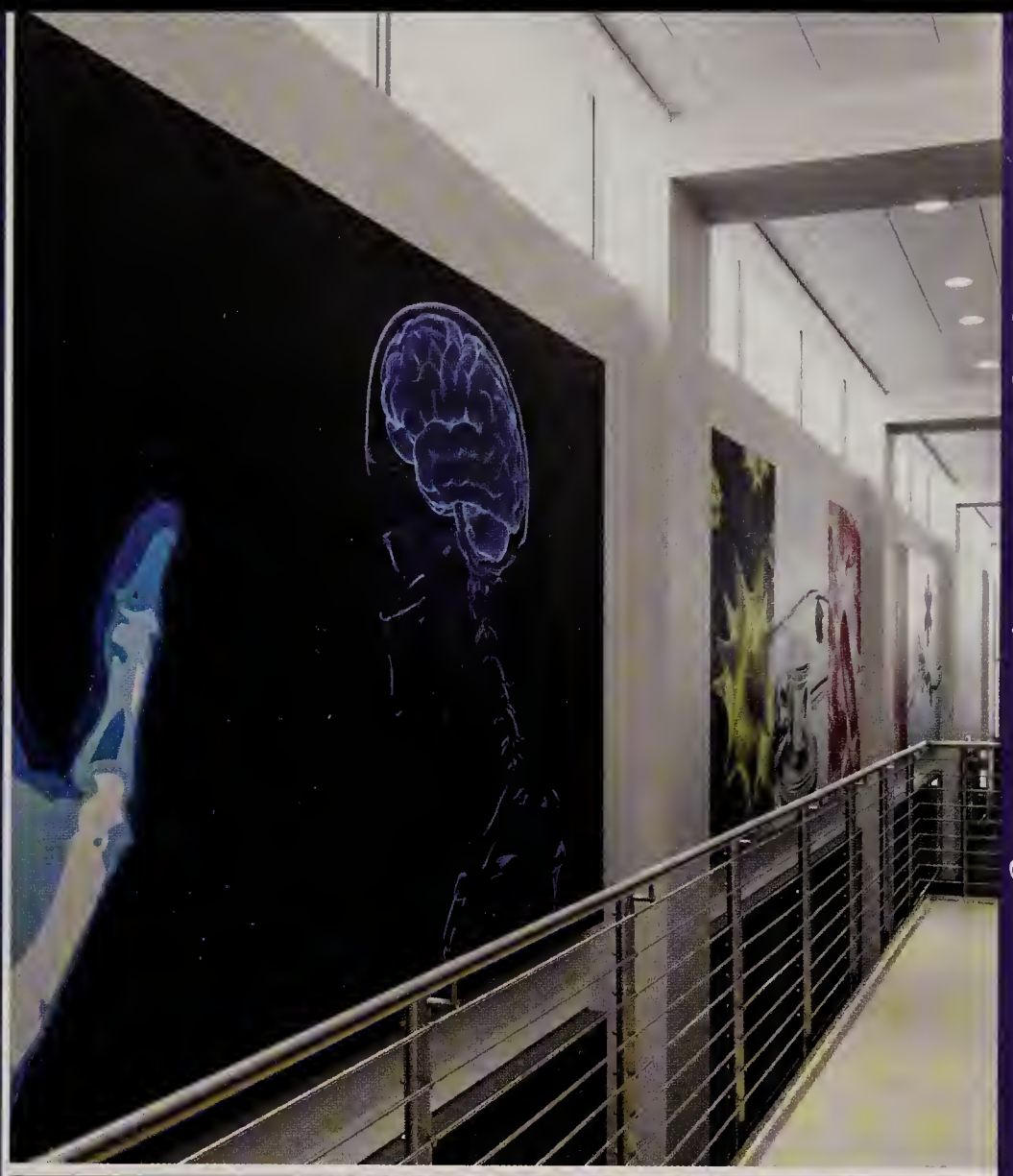
Regner says the Center was created to bring out the best in our students. "Having this new facility allows for students to be educated using the most current equipment, in a space that is outfitted appropriately," she says. "Our faculty and students can use their creativity by bringing the latest technology, including video and podcasts, to the classroom. Because the Center includes realistic settings, students can practice in a way that simulates their chosen professions, which goes a long way to build confidence. Being able to train on the best equipment helps, too! Every graduate wants to bring

"We now provide the best learning environment for nurses and other health-related careers in the state."

Cecile Regner

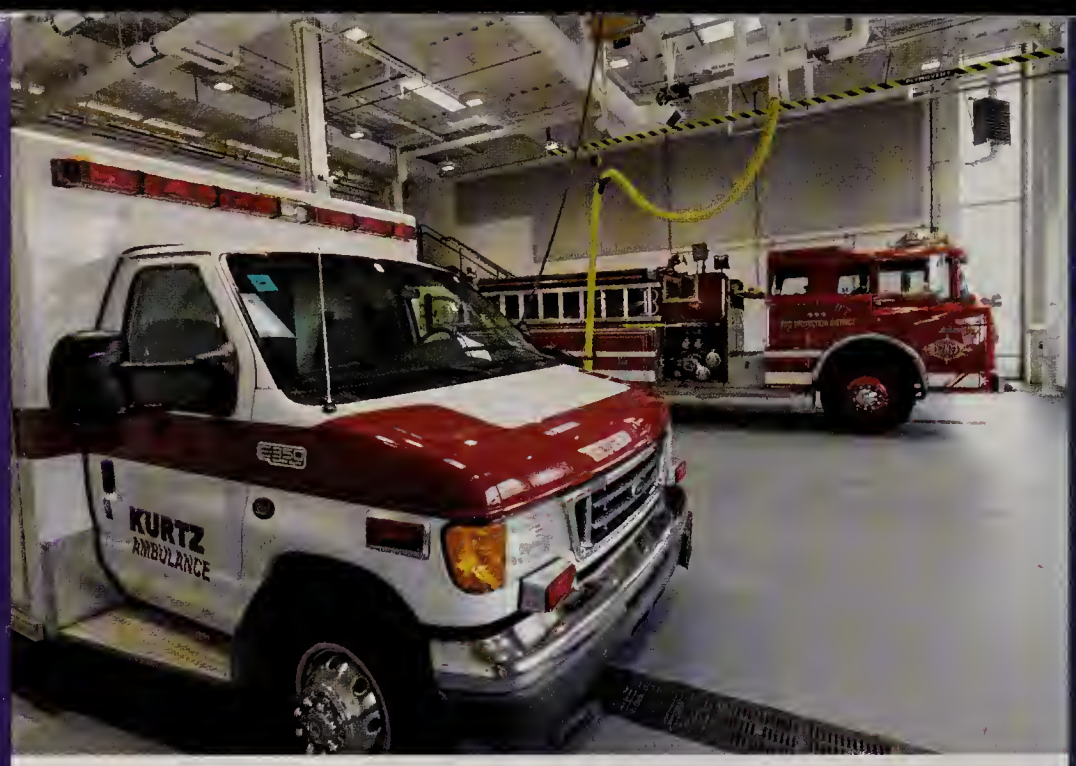
self-confidence to his or her profession, and it helps patients feel more comfortable, too. Working on the best equipment gives our students that confidence, and gives them a professional advantage." Regner also expressed gratitude to the community for their support of the Center, which is funded by a referendum voted on in 2008. The building allows JJC to give back to the community, too. "We are now able to offer multi-media meeting space for workshops," she said. "We hosted the Illinois Nursing Association in March, and will host the Northeast region of the Association in May; we'll continue to look for additional opportunities."

The best equipment can refer to something small, like a video recorder to capture a student working with a simulated patient, or large – as large as a fire engine or ambulance, both of which can be found in the apparatus bay. Duane Stonich, Professor and Coordinator of Fire Science, says this is a game-changing option for JJC students and faculty. "Teaching is teaching, whether you're in a temporary trailer or a state-of-the-art facility," Stonich says,









"but we are now able to give students real, hands-on experience. Instead of showing a video, students will be able to see different hose nozzles and learn how to use the different spray patterns in a firefighting situation. There is space for every student to actively participate in the skills we are teaching. This is very important from a community standpoint, because many graduates of our programs go out to serve and work in the local area." (See sidebar to the right.) Stonich says the opening of the Center is surreal to him and his

> "This was always a dream we had – that somehow, someday we could have a facility like this. Things we always wanted – simple things like easy access to indoor plumbing, and complex things like a firetruck – now we have them."
>
> Duane Stonich

colleagues. "This was always a dream we had – that somehow, someday we could have a facility like this. Things we always wanted – simple things like easy access to indoor plumbing, and complex things like a firetruck – now we have them."

Having the right equipment means everyone educated in the Health Professions Center will have access to materials that will enhance their experience. "The Center gives us the opportunity to add realistic care instruction," says Charlotte Garrabrant, Professor, Emergency Services. "We'll be able to divide classes into 'squads', which will be called out by dispatch via radio to the apparatus floor (where the ambulance and

Community Well-Being

JJC Graduates Provide Necessary Wellness and Safety Services

If you have a health-related emergency or a fire, there is a great possibility that the people who help you through the crisis are graduates of Joliet Junior College's nursing, allied health or emergency services programs.

When dialing 911, you may speak with a JJC-educated dispatcher. He or she will send a fire engine and/or ambulance, which will likely carry one or more graduates of JJC programs, from firefighters to emergency medical personnel. If your emergency is health related, you may be met in the ER by a graduate from the JJC nursing program. In the event of a blood draw, you could meet a JJC-educated phlebotomist, or have an X-ray taken by a graduate of our Radiologic Technology program.

This scenario merely scratches the surface of JJC's community impact in terms of well-being. Joliet Junior College graduates are in high demand in the nursing, allied health and emergency services fields, and they care for the health of our community every day. JJC graduates receive degrees or certificates in the following fields:

- Associate Transfer Degree (Biology, Chemistry, Psychology or Pre-Med)
- Advanced Certified Nurse Assistant
- Certified Phlebotomy Technician
- Electrocardiography Technician
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Science Technology
- Health Information Management Technology
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Medical Coding Specialist
- Medical Transcriptionist
- Nurse Assistant
- Nursing
- Practical Nursing
- Radiologic Technology

For more information about healthcare career programs, visit www.jjc.edu.



fire engine are located). They'll learn what the call entails, and they'll have to prepare and respond in the appropriate timeframe. It's as real as an educational experience can be." Garrabrant says technology has also been improved in the new setting. "We're able to bring our students a new level of technology," she says, "with radios and dispatch equipment, not to mention computerized patient care reports and more. We'll train our students on the equipment they'll use professionally, which is a huge advantage for a JJC graduate. What we're able to offer, and the experience our students can have, sets us apart."

There are a great deal of advantages to learning in this new space, but one of them is as simple as that: space. "We have the largest associate degree nursing program in the state," says Mary Beth Luna, Nursing Professor and Department Chair, "but until now we probably had the smallest physical space. Our nursing students now have dedicated space to practice their skills, and a simulation lab that provides a wonderful addition to our curriculum. It gives students a realistic setting to care for simulated patients, while allowing instructors to observe – or even video record – from inside a control room with a two-way mirror. Those recordings can be reviewed later in a debriefing room." Luna says the end result is excellent education, with a focus on the well-being of our neighbors. "The Health Professions Center strengthens our already excellent nursing program, and helps to ensure our graduates are ready to care for a variety of patients when they graduate and begin working in the community."

SUSTAINABILITY

The Green Side of Well-Being

As with every project at JJC, the Health Professions Center was designed with an eye on sustainability. Designed for LEED Gold Certification, the 124,000-square-foot facility includes an array of features that focus on the environment, including:

- Planned to be 30 percent more efficient than the latest energy standards
- Heat recovery and radiant heating systems conserve energy and distribute heat efficiently
- Chilled air beam system reduces recirculated air, maximizes fresh air, and cools rooms efficiently
- Ground-based geothermal system further reduces heating/cooling load
- Use of recycled and/or regional materials

Grants Support Community Well-Being



Margot Underwood, Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Sherri Morrow, Associate Professor of Counseling; Mildred Holmes, Professor of Counseling and Counselor; Cynthia Vasquez-Barrios, Dean of Students; Dr. Yolanda Isaacs, Vice President of Student Development; States Attorney Jim Glasgow; April Balzhizer, Senior Program Director of Guardian Angel Community Services; and Joyce Coleman, Executive Director of HR, celebrate JJC receiving the Department of Justice Grant.

Preventing Violence Against Women

JJC only community college in Illinois to receive Department of Justice grant

Joliet Junior College is the only community college in Illinois to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The grant will be used to make an impact on the education and prevention of domestic violence against women.

The $297,196 grant, funded under the "Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus" program, will support a project that was designed by a coalition between JJC and community leaders from Guardian Angel Community Services (GACS) and Will County State's Attorney Jim Glasgow's Office.

"To be the only community college in Illinois to receive this grant this year is testimony of the hard work and dedication of all members of this grant committee," said Grant Director Sherri Morrow. "There are many women within our community dealing with domestic violence, and now we will have the resources and training we need to help them."

In the spring of 2012, several internal JJC offices worked together with GACS and the state's attorney's office to discuss ways to improve community prevention and response resources for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, which lead to the grant application process.

JJC will use a portion of the funds to hire a project coordinator to help direct the activities of the grant. Funds will also be used to help create a community response team; establish a mandatory prevention and education program for all incoming students; develop victim advocacy assistance; train all law enforcement and members of campus disciplinary boards to respond effectively to cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking; and re-implement the Lighthouse Project with GACS and the state's attorney's office, which was a program designated to assisting victims of domestic violence in the Joliet community.

The college hosted a kick-off event to celebrate achieving the grant and discuss the future goals of the project in October 2012. Representatives from JJC, State's Attorney Jim Glasgow and representatives from GACS attended and spoke at the event.

Preparing for Job Growth

Joliet Junior College Receives $525,000 U.S. Department of Labor Grant for Job Training



JJC will use some of the funds from the Department of Labor grant to prepare individuals for high-growth occupations in fields such as welding.

Joliet Junior College is one of 21 Illinois community colleges in an education consortium, known as the Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM), that received a $12.9 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support innovative job training and manufacturing programs.

As part of this program, JJC will receive approximately $525,000 in funding under the second round of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCT) program.

JJC will use the funds to focus on expanding programs that prepare individuals for high growth advanced manufacturing occupations, institute strategies to increase student success, and implement program delivery strategies that ensure student completion.

The focus of the manufacturing bridge curriculum will be to educate and train workers for sustainable employment or postsecondary training in the advanced manufacturing sector.

"This is a statewide initiative and JJC is excited to be one of the 21 participating colleges," said JJC Dean of Community and Economic Development Dan Kreidler. "We will focus our efforts to work with those individuals that have lost their jobs due to them being moved overseas, veterans to reintegrate into the civilian workforce and others individuals who are unemployed or underemployed who meet WIA eligibility requirements."

Kreidler added that JJC will now be able to revitalize its manufacturing program and initiate a new robotics program with these grant funds. The initiative will provide participants accumulating credentials starting with the National Career Readiness Certificate, leading to MSSC certification and other manufacturing related credentials. To learn more about the National Career Readiness Certificate, read the story on WorkKeys on page 21.

The consortium's lead institution, Harper College, is joined by educational partners College of Lake County, College of DuPage, Daley-City Colleges of Chicago, Danville Area Community College, Elgin Community College, Illinois Eastern Community College, Illinois Valley Community College, John Wood Community College, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Kishwaukee College, Lincoln Land Community College, McHenry County College, Oakton Community College, Prairie State College, Richland Community College, South Suburban College, Southwestern Illinois College, Triton College, and Waubonsee Community College. To learn more about manufacturing and technical career training at JJC, look no further than www.jjc.edu/academics/divisions/career-technical/technical.

GRANT PROGRAMS

About TAACCT

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize the TAACCT Grant Program. TAACCT provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations.

City Center Campus: Breaking New Ground





Dr. Debra Daniels, Mayor Tom Giarrante, Trustee Jeff May and Greg Werner of Mortenson Construction, all speakers at the Groundbreaking ceremony, pose with the cake, designed by the JJC culinary arts students and faculty to represent the building site.

In January, Joliet Junior College held a groundbreaking celebration for the new City Center Campus building in January at the Renaissance Center facility in downtown Joliet. The event, attended by more than 100 people, recognized the college's commitment to bringing education to our community.

Dr. Debra Daniels, president of JJC, hosted an array of special guests and elected officials, including Tom Giarrante, Mayor of Joliet, members of the Will County Board, Joliet City Council, state elected officials and members of various boards, including several members of the JJC Board of Trustees. Speakers included Dr. Daniels, Trustee Jeff May, Mayor Giarrante and Greg Werner of Mortenson Construction, which is contracted to build the exterior. May spoke of the importance of partnerships, saying "We could not do this without the support of our partners at the city, county and state levels, so we thank them for their belief in us and their investment in education." May also expressed gratitude to the citizens within the district, who supported the 2008 referendum, funds from which will be used in the construction of City Center.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring. When the six-story, 9600-square-foot building is complete, it will hold programs such as our award-winning Culinary Arts department, Workforce Development, GED and ESL training, and Adult Education. City Center will also include a library, computer lab, general classrooms and a casual dining area.

In keeping with JJC's green tradition, the building will feature many sustainable technologies and is targeting LEED Silver certification through the United States Green Building Council.

City Center Campus is expected to be open to students in two to three years. "The building will be a contemporary expression of the vitality that it will bring to the downtown community," said Dr. Daniels. To stay updated on our City Center Campus, log on to www.jjc.edu/masterplan.







2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting JJC's well-being to the community we serve.





Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for post-secondary education.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Financial Highlights

- The District's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net assets increased 7.1% over the course of the year and new construction in the District increased property tax revenue by 2.5% in fiscal 2012.
- Overall revenues were $134.3 million, $7.3 million more than expenses of which $1.4 million of this increase is unrestricted.
- Total costs increased by approximately 6.0% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, student financial aid passed through the District, the on-behalf pension contribution from the state of Illinois and depreciation.
- Net tuition revenue decreased by 3.6%. This was due to no increase in the tuition rate or credit hours generated coupled with a 6.6% increase in scholarships and tuition allowances.

JJC by the Numbers

32,089
The number of students enrolled in credit or non-credit courses in 2012, representing an increase of almost 26 percent since 2008.

44%
The increase in degrees or certificates awarded has increased since 2008.

$750,000
The amount of scholarships students receive annually through the generous support of the JJC Foundation.

Top 100
JJC's ranking by Community College Week for number of associate degrees granted.

10
The number of consecutive years JJC has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2012	2011	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$92.0	$139.7	$(81.6)	-47.0%
Capital Assest	162.9	121.4	41.5	34.2%
Non-current Assest	53.9	15.2	38.7	254.6%
Total Assets	308.8	310.2	(1.4)	-0.5%
Current Liabilities	38.4	43.4	(5.0)	-11.5%
Long-Term Liabilities	160.1	163.8	(3.7)	-2.3%
Total Liabilities	198.5	207.2	(8.7)	-4.2%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	44.0	43.7	0.3	0.7%
Restricted	26.9	21.3	5.6	26.3%
Unrestricted	39.4	38.0	1.4	3.7%
Total Net Assets	**$110.3**	**$103.0**	**$7.3**	**7.1%**

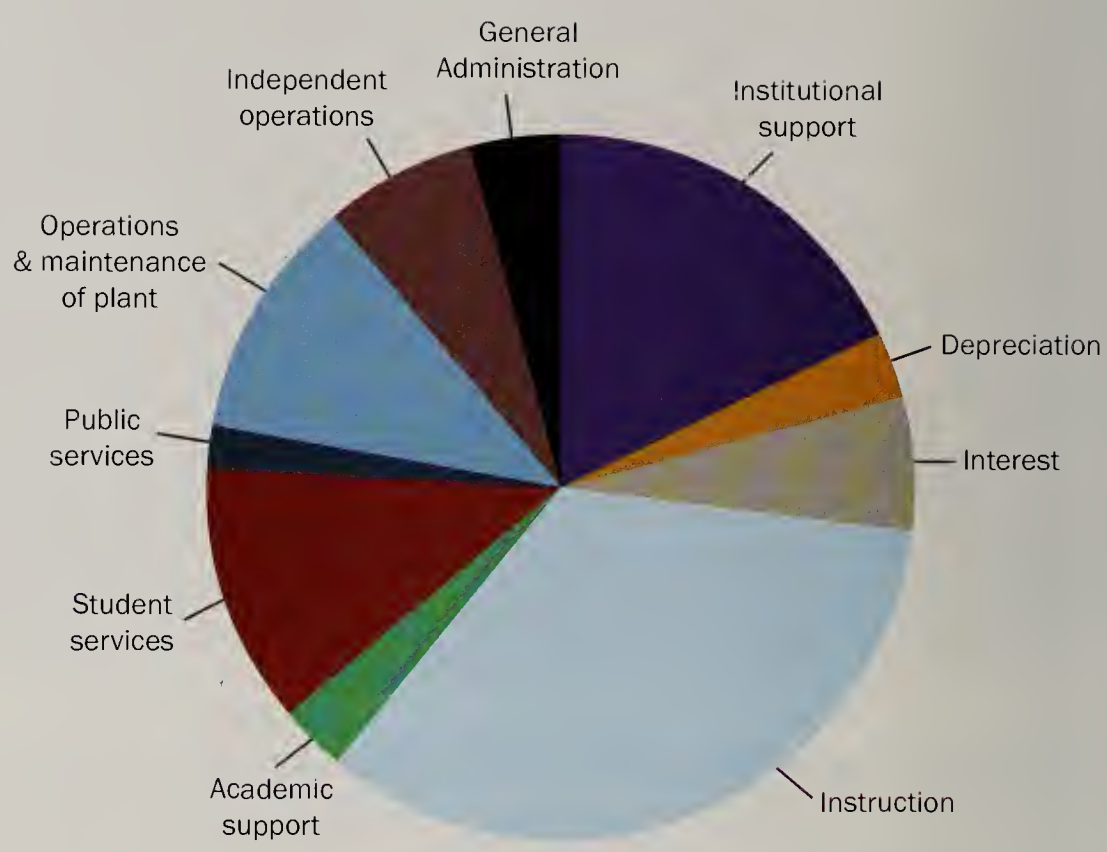
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $119.8 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $62 million or 52 percent of total expenses.

	2012	2011	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$41.5	$41.6	$(0.1)	-0.2%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(14.5)	(13.6)	(0.9)	6.6%
Net Tuition & Fees	27.0	28.0	(1.0)	-2.3%
Sales & Service Fees	9.0	8.8	(0.2	-1.1%
Miscellaneous	1.4	1.4	-	-0.0%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	48.3	47.1	1.2	2.5%
State & Federal Sources	46.0	48.7	(2.7)	-5.5%
Other	2.6	3.6	(1.0)	-27.8%
Total Revenues	**$134.3**	**$137.6**	**$(3.3)**	**-2.4%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	43.3	43.5	-	-0.0%
Academic Support	3.4	3.4	0.3	9.7%
Student Services	15.2	12.9	2.3	17.8%
Public Services	2.3	2.2	0.1	4.5%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	14.1	11.7	2.4	20.5%
Independent Operations	9.6	9.4	0.2	2.1%
General Administration	4.6	4.6	-	0.0%
Institutional Support	22.5	21.3	1.2	5.6%
Depreciation	4.1	3.1	1.0	32.3%
Interest	7.9	7.7	0.2	2.6%
Total Expenses	**127.0**	**119.8**	**7.2**	**6.0%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**103.0**	**85.2**		
End of Year	**$110.3**	**$103.0**		
Increase in Net Assets	**7.3**	**17.8**	**$(10.5)**	

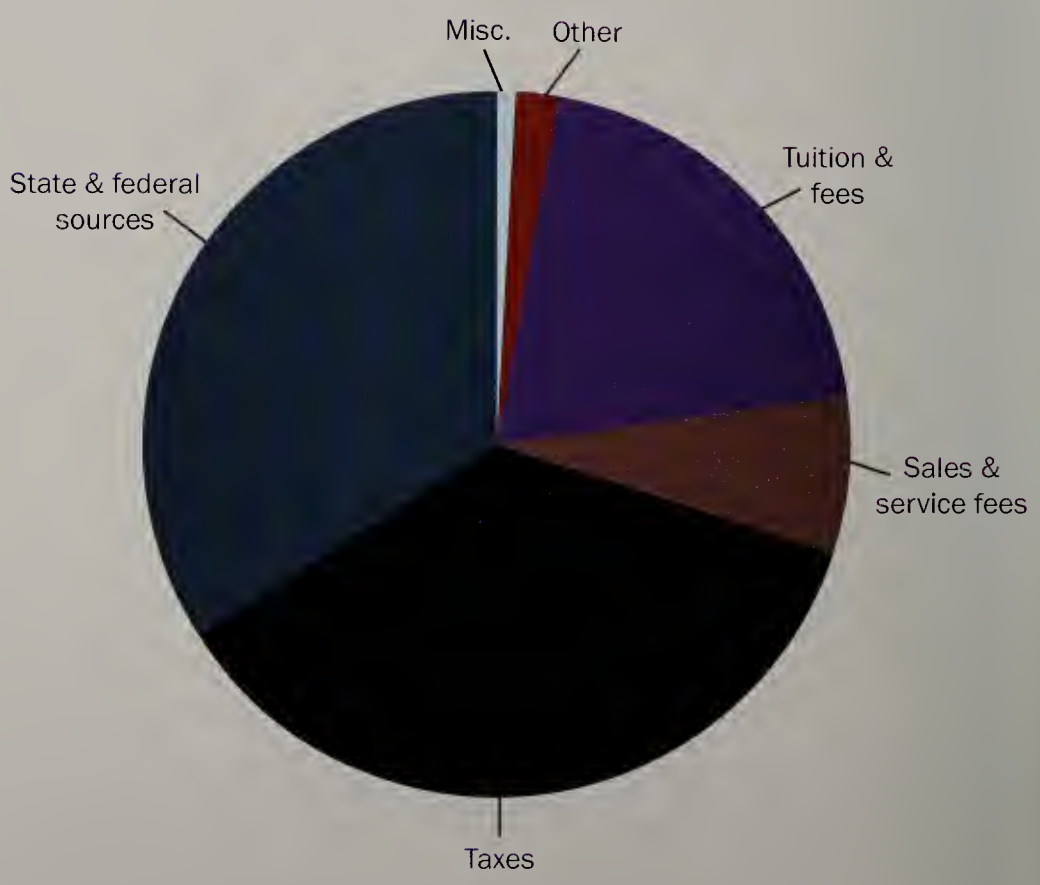
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2012

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**11%**
Independent Operations	**7%**
General Administration	**4%**
Institutional Support	**18%**
Depreciation	**3%**
Interest	**6%**
Instruction	**34%**
Academic Support	**3%**
Student Services	**12%**
Public Services	**2%**



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2012

Taxes	**36%**
Miscellaneous	**1%**
Other	**2%**
Tuition and Fees	**20%**
Sales and Service Fees	**7%**
State and Federal Sources	**34%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Tom Osterberger

Foundation President

I am honored to serve as the 2013-2014 President of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors. As a board member, I can assure you that your donations to the college through the JJC Foundation are used as directed by each donor to grant students much-needed scholarships and provide the college with financial assistance for necessary educational equipment and programming for all students at the college.

The JJC Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 362 students totaling $694,965 this academic year alone. At least one high school senior from each of the 27 feeder schools in District 525 are awarded a JJC Foundation merit scholarship for $2,500.

I am proud to report that, in addition to the many hours of time spent by the Foundation Board, 100 percent of the JJC Foundation Board members give financially to this institution, demonstrating their commitment to our cause.

I invite you to join the JJC Foundation Board by making a gift to support the oldest and finest public community college in the nation, so it may continue to meets its goal to educate our students and serve our community.

Sincerely,

Tom Osterberger
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2012 and 2011]

	2012	2011
Total Current Assets	$15,848,178	16,360,091
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,905
Total Assets	16,608,178	17,120,996
Total Current Liabilities	17,995	1,152
Total Net Assets	16,590,183	17,119,844
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	16,608,178	17,120,996

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2012 and 2011]

	2012	2011
Total Revenues	$601,918	$4,546,728
Total Expenses	1,131,579	1,103,571
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	17,119,844	13,676,687
End of Fiscal Year	16,590,183	17,119,844
Endowment	10,421,378	10,135,674
Investments	15,491,974	16,131,162
Annual Contributions	1,213,597	1,596,392
Scholarships Awarded	694,965	743,110

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Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/foundation** and select "Ways of Giving."

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
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If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
(815) 280-2353

Helping a Community Work: WorkKeys® at JJC



Paige Vanderhyden, Director, Workforce Development.

Joliet Junior College is one of 300 WorkKeys Solution Providers in the U.S. WorkKeys is an ACT-developed system that helps companies, organization and individuals identify and learn the skills necessary to fill specific jobs, and it can have a profound effect on individuals and organizations alike.

ACT WorkKeys is an assessment system used to measure job skills that employers find essential to job success. (And yes, it's the same ACT that you remember from college entrance exams, American College Testing.) At JJC, you can participate in an assessment and receive your National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The certificate, which is issued by ACT, informs employers anywhere in the U.S. that an individual has essential core employability skills in reading, math and locating information. When employers ask for the National Career Readiness Certificate for jobs in the workplace, they tap into the most qualified labor pool in the area. Participants receive a work readiness credential, gaining a competitive edge, and become certified through the following assessments: reading for information; applied mathematics, and locating information.In addition, WorkKeys can provide assessments for the WorkKeys Paraprofessional Certificate. The Illinois State Board of Education requires Paraprofessionals and Teachers Aides working in schools receiving Title I funds to meet requirements federally mandated in the No Child Left Behind Act. Individuals looking to meet the state requirements by taking WorkKeys assessments can become certified through the following assessments: reading for information; applied mathematics, and business writing.

"JJC has been a WorkKeys solutions provider for three years," said Paige Vanderhyden, Director, Workforce Development, "and later this spring, we'll renew our license, which allows us to offer these assessments to people in our community." There are fees associated with completing these assessments, but Vanderhyden believes there is a great deal of value in them. "The assessments tell a potential employer how you apply what you know," she said. "For example, the Reading for Information assessment includes the reading of passages, and answering questions. Your answers indicate how you comprehend what you read. Applied Mathematics is not a series of calculations; instead, it's about determining the formula needed to get an answer, figuring it out, and applying what you know." Vanderhyden says the Locating Information assessment is the most difficult, because it consists of looking at diagrams, charts, pictures and more, and answering questions. "It measures how a person analyzes the data he or she is receiving." The questions are multiple choice, and the assessments are timed.

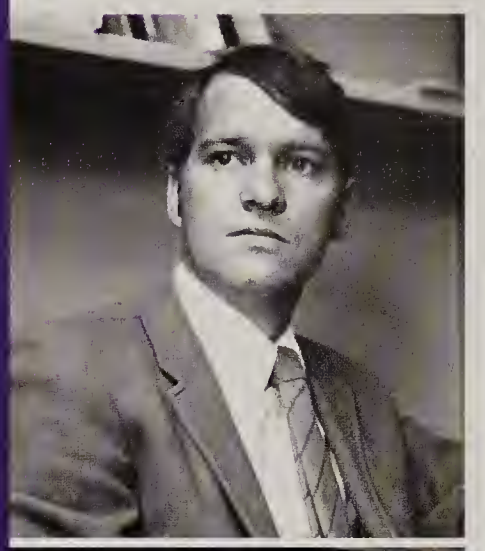
Last fall, Joliet Junior College Workforce Development was awarded $47,000 for a "Deploy to Employ" grant through the WalMart Foundation. A portion of these funds will be used to provide assessments to veterans and their families.

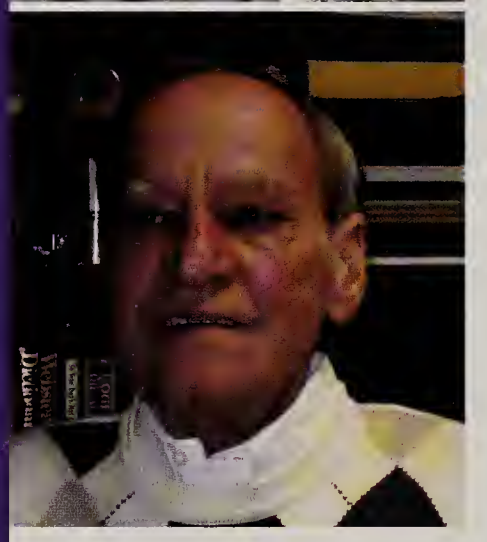


(To learn more about the grant, and the other ways it's being used, see the story on page 24.)

The abilities to learn, listen, communicate, work in teams, and solve problems are important assets for any workers, regardless of career choice. WorkKeys assessments measure these abilities, and can indicate your strengths and areas for improvement. For more information, or to register to take an assessment, log on to www.jjc.edu/info/wd, or call (815) 280-1500.

People Then and Now





Patrick Asher

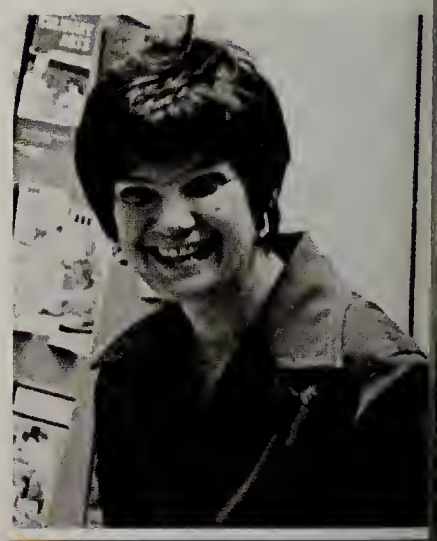
THEN

Patrick Asher began teaching English and philosophy in 1967, when the college campus was part of Joliet Central High School. He expanded the philosophy curriculum from a one-semester course in the history of philosophy to a two-semester sequence. He also developed a course in perennial issues in philosophy as well as a course in ethics. He served for nine years as the Chairman of the English/Foreign Languages Department and was an advisor to the Veteran's Club and Phi Theta Kappa, the college's National Honor Society. In addition, he was active in the faculty union, having served as President of JJC's Council 525 and as Vice-Chairman of the Will County Federation of Teachers. He retired from the college in 2001.

NOW

Since 2002, Patrick has been teaching English as an adjunct instructor at the North Campus. He also volunteers as a driver for Meals on Wheels. In addition, he has been serving on the Joliet Housing Authority Board of Commissioners since 2001, having held the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Sandy Hopper



THEN

Sandy Hopper started at JJC in 1974 as an administrator in the Early School Leavers Program and followed that with another administrative position in the CETA program. In 1980 she switched to faculty status and became the counselor for Project Advance, and in 1988 transferred to the JJC Counseling Center where she remained until her retirement in May of 2000. She served on many committees over the years, and helped develop the student orientation program. Asked to develop a training program for academic advisors as a retirement project, she taught that class on a part-time basis for four years after leaving the Counseling Department.
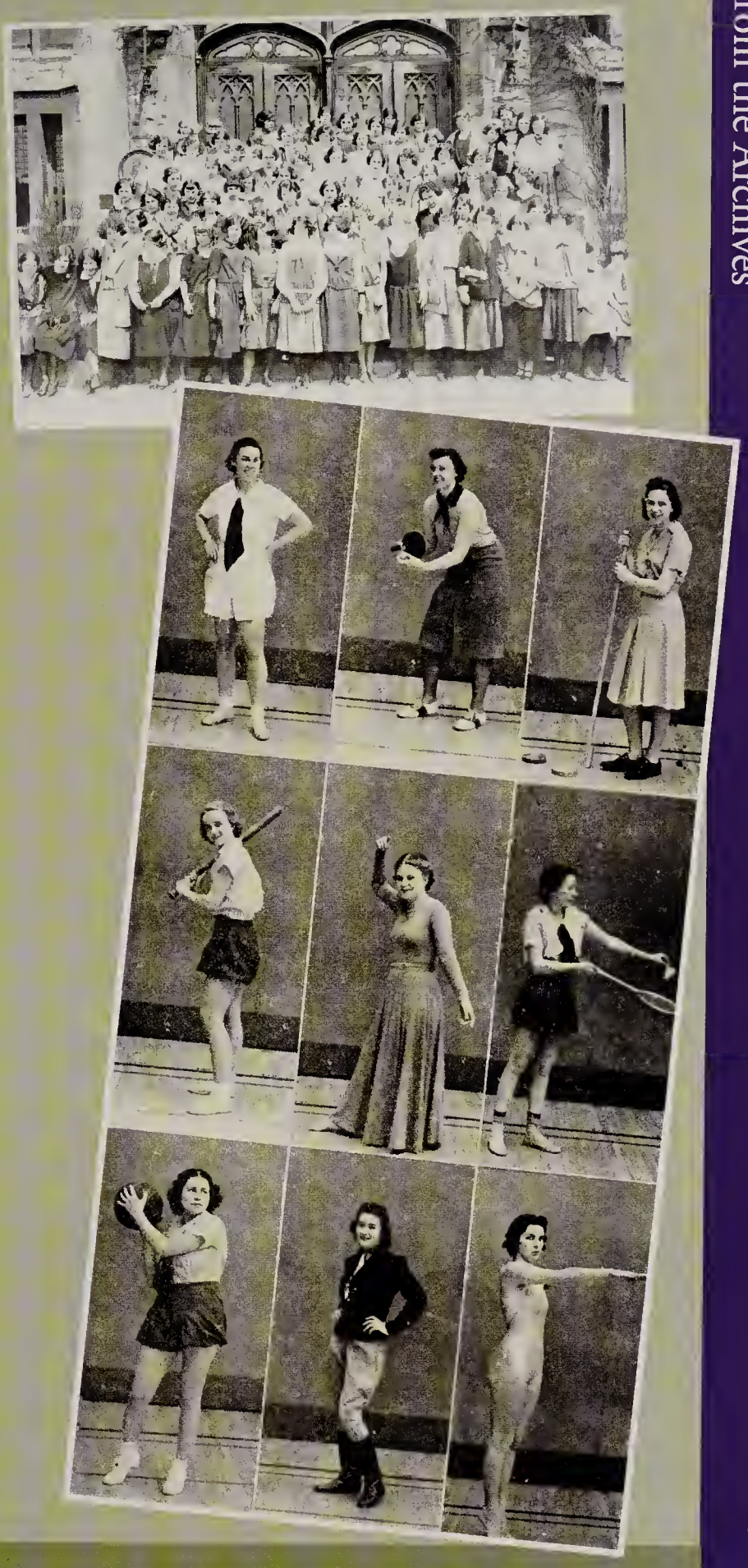


NOW

After retirement from JJC, Sandy followed her creative interests, developing a jewelry beading business and successfully selling her creations at craft shows for more than six years. An avid traveler, Sandy spent 12 days on safari this past summer in Botswana, Africa. She has also traveled to Egypt, Peru, Costa Rica, Bali, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Italy, Spain, all of Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Alaska, Hawaii and much of the continental U.S. Sandy has many places she still plans to visit, including China and Russia. She has maintained JJC ties by serving on the JJC SUAA Executive Board and Insurance Committee for the past seven years and by participating in a monthly lunch group with other JJC retirees. Her three grandchildren keep her young at heart and in spirit, and they are the joy of her life!

"Let's Join!"

The Women's Athletic Association at Joliet Junior College



It was long considered a guy's thing: Sports. The strict gender rules only allowed boys and men to sweat, bleed and scream while they careened down a court with a ball bouncing at their side, or smashed into one another while running for a touchdown, or even glided effortlessly through the water toward victory. But what we all forget sometimes is that not one part of that idea is true. From the beginning, school athletics were not just for the boys. Starting the early 20th century, high schools, then community colleges, had internal organizations which allowed females to have their own organization of sports teams, where they competed against themselves, locally and nationally.

At Joliet Junior College, the Women's Athletic Association (WAA) was born out of the Joliet Township High School's Girls' Athletic Association, which began between 1905 and 1910 at Joliet Township High School. This organization was made possible by the Illinois League of Girls' Athletic Associations. What started in the high school expanded at JJC. By 1933, the WAA had grown to 23 members, requiring all females enrolled at JJC to become part of the association. Sports like, basketball, swimming, riding, archery and tennis were all played by the women enrolled in the group. The WAA participated not only in intramural and state-wide competitions, but also hosted social gatherings at the College and organized non-competitive sporting activities, like hiking, roller skating, ballet and bicycling. The women prided themselves on their strong character and initiation rites of passages. One such initiation according to the JJC Yearbook, included walking through the hallways of what is now Joliet Central High School on stilts.

In 1958, the WAA had become a student club for women who "enjoyed sports and rhythmic activities." In 1959, the WAA gave way to the Women's Activity League, a group that continued the social activities of the WAA, but no longer organized any sport teams for women. It would not be until 1976 when the College would finally create a women's sports division within its athletics department.

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Andrew Lenaghan,
Associate Professor, Librarian
Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: 815.280.2534
email: alenagha@jjc.edu



News Briefs

WalMart Foundation Grant Funds JJC Program

Former JJC football player Rob Ninkovich got his first taste Last fall, Joliet Junior College's Workforce Development was awarded $47,000 for a "Deploy to Employ" grant through the WalMart Foundation. The funds will be used for outreach and recruitment, job readiness and career counseling workshops, occupational training, and job placement assistance for veterans and their families. It will also provide them the opportunity to make use of the training and curriculum for basic employment skills, be assessed on those skills and receive the National Career Readiness (NCRC) Plus certification.

The program goals include:

- Creating a one-stop resource for veterans located in Will and Grundy counties.
- Impacting 480 veterans and their military families and creating awareness of JJC's Veterans resources for workforce development and occupational training.
- Creating awareness of veteran resources and collaborating with businesses, chambers of commerce, non-for-profit and community-based organizations.
- Providing WorkKeys Assessments and the National Career Readiness Certificate for 100 program participants.
- Providing access to KeyTrain curriculum to prepare for the WorkKeys Assessments as needed for up to 50 program participants.
- Offering Career Readiness Workshops twice a month, or more as needed, to serve program participants.
- Assisting veterans and their military families with career readiness and job placement assistance as needed.

For more information, contact Jami Trybom at jtrybom@jjc.edu or (815)280-1303, or visit www.jjc.edu/info/wd and click on "Veterans."

JJC Receives Top Sustainability Award

Joliet Junior College was one of 21 Illinois colleges and universities honored with an Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact award. It was presented by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a unit of the Prairie Research Institute at University of Illinois, on November 9.

Of the 21 institutions honored, only eight – including JJC – received the top level (gold) award for integrating sustainability throughout the campus and working toward measured improvements. Objectives of the compact include purchasing renewable energy, implementing green building practices, developing sustainable transportation options, improving water consumption and incorporating sustainable dining practices.

"Two years ago, Joliet Junior College joined dozens of institutions of higher learning by signing the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact and accepting the Governor's challenge," Maria Rafac, JJC professor and co-chair of the college's sustainability committee, said. "We have proven our continuous commitment to sustainability and the communities we serve by earning this award."

"These organizations have shown that it is possible to create and maintain conditions under which people and the environment can exist in harmony, and fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations," said Manohar Kulkarni, ISTC Director. To learn more about sustainable initiatives on campus, visit www.jjc.edu/about/committees/sustainable-campus.



Professor Maria Rafac, (left) and Dr. Judy Mitchell, Vice President of Administrative Services, (right) accept the Illinois Sustainability Compact award from Manohar Kulkarni, ISTC Director (center).



A great number of employers and job seekers alike attended the first-ever Skilled Trades Career Day.

First Skilled Trades Career Day a Success

In November, JJC hosted its first Skilled Trades Career Day. The event was designed to help connect qualified workers with the increasing number of employment opportunities in trades such as manufacturing, industrial maintenance and machining. The event was open to all JJC students, alumni, veterans and community job seekers who have a mechanical/technical skill set or experience working in a manufacturing or industrial environment. JJC Career Services hosted the event, in partnership with the technical department, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), National Able Network (military-to-civilian employment program), alumni relations, workforce services and local high schools.

Career Day activities included a presentation by speakers from Caterpiller, Inc., a tour of the welding lab, manufacturing classroom and automotive technology area. Hundreds of attendees spoke with representatives from 22 area companies, seeking information and employment.

See page 11 for more on how JJC is expanding programs that prepare community members for skilled trades occupations. Discover how Career Services supports JJC students and the community at jjc.edu/services-for-students/support-programs-services/career-services.

JJC Chefs Among Best in the World

Chef Andy Chlebana, pastry instructor in the JJC Culinary Arts department, recently traveled to Lyon, France to compete as team captain of Team USA in the Coupe du Monde World Pastry Competition.

Out of 22 countries represented, Team USA came in 4th place in the world. "We are very proud of Chef Andy and this incredible international accomplishment," said Chef Michael McGreal, Culinary Arts Department Chair. "Thank you Chef Andy for making our program, our institution and our nation proud!"

In October 2012, Culinary Arts instructor Tim Bucci joined the American Culinary Federation Team USA in the World Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany. The team won two silver medals, and took 6th place overall out of 54 countries. "Tim not only represented our program and this institution on the world stage, but also millions of employees, owners and operators of America's restaurants and foodservice operations," said McGreal.

Bucci also competed in the 2008 World Culinary Olympics, where he won a gold medal. To learn more about JJC's Culinary Arts program, visit jjc.edu/academics/divisions/career-technical/culinary-arts.



Chef Tim Bucci, just one of JJC's award-winning culinary instructors.



Feeding the Soul

The connection between art and well-being

The arts have the power to bring us closer together. We could be seated in an auditorium poised to watch the senior class musical or a Broadway play. We might be standing in a gallery viewing the works of Van Gogh or in the kitchen gazing together at the refrigerator display of a child's latest works. Or perhaps we're lounging in a park listening to the neighbor's garage band or a near-forgotten rockstar from the Billboard charts of our youth. In every case, the experience of art binds us with one another the way nothing else can.

Frank X. Walker, poet laureate of Kentucky, once said, "If we don't have art in our lives, we can never really be healthy people. If we don't participate in creative endeavors, we can never really be whole and well adjusted." So it's only natural that we make the connection between art and well-being here at JJC.

Joliet Junior College offers abundant opportunities for the community to experience art, says Fine Arts department chair Clay Kirkland. "From gallery shows to theater productions," Kirkland says, "anyone can come to JJC and enjoy numerous events." The college has gone to great lengths to enhance our artistic offerings, from increasing the academic space devoted to the music department to relocating the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery to a new space almost three times the size of its former location. A new black box theater was also added, allowing for flexible presentation of more intimate shows.

"In the Gallery," Kirkland says, "we'll show works by our students, faculty and outside artists. Each year we hold a juried show for high school students, and the last show allowed more students to submit works to be shown, because the new space allowed for a greater number of pieces; the larger space has already had been beneficial."

Kirkland says there are a lot of benefits to the black box theater, too. "It was created in our old band room," he says, "and it made perfect sense. We can use the same dressing rooms as the auditorium, but we now have the flexibility to create any staging we like. It was a practical solution to a creative dilemma." Kirkland says the 70-75 seat space can also be used for acting and directing classes, and that the one-act festival will be held there, as well.

The music department has received close attention, too. In fall of 2012, the department tripled its space. The program gained a recording lab, classrooms, practice rooms, band and choir rooms, storage, and faculty offices in the space formerly occupied by the library. "The added classrooms and improved rehearsal space is very exciting," said Charles Morgan, associate professor of music at JJC. "We have also added a recording studio so that we can expand our program offerings to include digital recording and media." One feature that has been incorporated in the new space is additional layers of drywall and sound batt insulation, which will









greatly reduce sound transmission between walls. The new music program location also includes "shelled space" that will allow the program to expand as needed in the future.

In its 11th year of accreditation from the National Association of Schools for Music, the program also received a Steinway Piano from funds raised through the JJC Foundation's Steinway Piano 88 Key Campaign, which began in early 2010. The piano was dedicated in September 2012. "Students will have the chance to play the piano during recitals," says Dr. Daniela Broderick, associate professor of music. "It's a standard of excellence in pianos ... we are giving our students the opportunity to learn how a great instrument feels, responds and sounds." The piano will also be used for Musica Viva concerts, allowing for the public to experience the incredible sound of the instrument as well.

For more information on when you can visit JJC and experience the arts, visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts-events or call (815) 280-2223.



Meeting Artistic Needs

The Master Plan goal of increasing academic space is evident in the changes made in J- and K-Buildings.

- The music program tripled its space in Fall 2012 when third floor J-Building renovations were complete. The space that once housed the JJC library now offers:
  - Recording lab
  - Additional classrooms
  - Practice rooms
  - Band room
  - Choir room
  - Keybord room
  - Faculty offices
- The theatre program's black box theater, created in the former band room, offers a flexible 70-75 seat auditorium. The black box creates opportunities for more intimate productions using a variety of configurations, in addition to being available for acting and directing classes.
- The Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery almost triples the space for artistic works to be displayed.

In Remembrance

During the research process for this article, the Fine Arts department learned of the death of Dr. Thomas Liley, professor of music, who passed away on January 22. An extremely talented musician, Dr. Liley taught music theory, music literature, music history, and lessons for woodwinds instruments. He played a key role in the creation of JJC's Musica Viva concert series, and in that way, and many others, was instrumental in sharing true artistic well-being with our community.

2013 Spring Events at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/events

Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K Run and Walk
Saturday, May 4
8:30 a.m. Wolves' Run One Mile Kids' Race (12 and under) - $7
9:00 a.m. 5K Run and Walk - $25 ($30 after April 25)
To register, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k

JJC Commencement
Friday, May 17
6 p.m. at Lewis University

2013 Alumni Survey
Help us improve the ways we keep you connected to Joliet Junior College. Visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni to complete the 2013 Alumni Survey.

Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts

Gallery Exhibition - Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
Monday, April 15, thru Tuesday, April 30

Theatre Production - Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
Thursday, April 18, thru Sunday, April 21

Student Recital
Wednesday, April 24 - 11:00 am

Spring Festival of One Acts held in the Black Box Theatre (K-1001)
Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27 - 7:30 pm

Musica Viva - Dr. Daniela Broderick, piano
Sunday, April 28 - 3:00 pm

Gallery Exhibition - Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
Friday, May 1, thru Friday, May 10

Jazz Band Spring Concert
Friday, May 3 - 7:30





Community Band Spring Concert
Sunday, May 5 - 3:00 pm

Chorale Masterworks Concert featuring the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Community Chorale
Sunday, May 5 - 7:30 pm

Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert
Tuesday, May 14 - 7:30 pm

Honors Recital
Thursday, May 16 - 7:30 pm

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra
Sunday, May 19 - 4:00 pm

Touring Children's Theatre Production
Monday, June 10, thru Friday, June 14
call director Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 to book a tour appearance.



Save the Date

32nd Annual Alumni Brunch

Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.

Joliet Junior College, Main Campus
Cost is $30 per person.
For more information, call
(815) 280-2328.

2013 Alumni Survey

Help us improve the way we keep you connected to Joliet Junior College. Visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni to complete the 2013 Alumni Survey.

Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Tuesday Shows - 7:30 p.m.

April 23	Wonders of the Night
May 7	The Fermi Paradox
May 21	Colliding Objects in Space
June 4	Are There Aliens?

Thursday Shows - 6:30 p.m.

May 2	A Trip Through the Stars
May 16	Sun, Earth & Moon
May 30	We Go To the Moon
June 13	The Solar System



Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/events** for more information.

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Attending JJC gave **William Conte**, a **1985 graduate**, a solid foundation to earn a bachelor's degree in finance and begin his career – 25 years and counting – as a financial advisor. He gives back to his alma mater by sharing his knowledge and expertise as a member of the JJC Foundation Executive Board.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

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Our Stories of Commitment





FALL 2013

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AMERICA'S MUSIC

A FILM HISTORY OF OUR POPULAR MUSIC FROM BLUES TO BLUEGRASS TO BROADWAY

Featuring films, discussions and live performances. Runs through April 2014.











For dates and show times, visit **jjc.edu/info/fine-arts-events.**

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 1901

This festival is a project by Tribeca Film Institute in collaboration with the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint, and the Society for American Music. America's Music has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an Awards for Excellence grant from the JJC Foundation, and a grant from JJC's Office of Student Activities.

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CONNECTIONS

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Committed Employers/Committed Employees

JJC employees are generous in their work, and with their finances. Employees gave nearly $85,000 during fiscal year 2013.



Committed to Education

The creation of a Master Plan in 2007, and the manner in which the Master Plan has been carried out, shows how committed JJC is to education.



Committed to Global Citizenship

By connecting with our peers around the globe, we gain a greater understanding of ourselves and our world.



Helping Our Neighbors

JJC used grant money to train Veterans in the transportation industry, and bring a Farmers Market to campus this summer.



Community Commitment

JJC provides educational opportunities for everyone in the community, from earning a GED to gaining job search assistance and more.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,
Today our students live in a world of global economy and culture. Whether they are studying cooking methods from Japan, literature from the Middle East, or textiles from India, our students are experiencing the world, inside and outside the classroom. In this edition of Connections, you'll find stories that illustrate our commitment to local and global communities through education, opportunity and innovation.

Over the last several years, we have added an emphasis to international study throughout our course offerings. This emphasis is carried through travel opportunities for students and faculty to countries including China, Costa Rica, Spain, India, Japan, and Jordan. In addition, our new program in International Studies begins in January 2014.

Although our world becomes smaller every day, we at JJC are committed to providing world-class student support services and educational opportunities in modern learning facilities that prepare our students for life and work here in our district and across the globe.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Connections magazine and, as always, we thank you for your commitment and support of Joliet Junior College.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Resource Development.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

This issue of *Connections* focuses on **commitment** — a word that, for me, is strong, unbreakable and undeniable. As you read through this issue, you will see that Joliet Junior College has a strong, unbreakable and undeniable commitment to our students and our community. It is exciting to witness the wonderful things we do to demonstrate this commitment. Specifically, a master plan that has shaped, and continues to shape, the college into a world class institution.

Have you thought about your commitment to JJC? Many of you have demonstrated your commitment to the college with your time, talents and treasures. We have an incredible Alumni Board that volunteers their time to build loyalty and support for the college among alumni. We have an amazing Foundation Board of Directors that provides invaluable counsel and assistance in strategic planning, fundraising, and portfolio management. There are also many individuals who give their time and talents to various committees and departments on campus. Lastly, I could never forget the alumni, friends and businesses that give to JJC to ensure our students have the right resources in place to attend JJC and complete their education.

Are you asking yourself, **how can I begin to show my commitment?** The answer is simple ... reconnect! Fill out our reconnect form at www.jjc.edu/info/reconnect. From there, the opportunities are endless. You could connect and mentor current students, serve on a board or committee, or donate to a scholarship or fund that interests you, to name a few.

I encourage you to take that step ... commit to JJC!

Stay in touch,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

Committed Employees IMPACT Student Success



Joliet Junior College is a place where commitment and connection go hand in hand.

188
employees donated

$84,796
raised for the campaign

Each spring, JJC employees have an opportunity to help students by donating to the Employee Giving Campaign. Through the Joliet Junior College foundation, employees can donate – through payroll deduction, or by giving a one-time gift – and our students benefit.

"This campaign is an important way employees can provide a piece to our students' educational puzzle," says Amanda Quinn, Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager. "For fiscal year 2013, 188 employees donated $84,796 to the campaign, which will help many deserving students in their pursuit of education."

Another avenue for employee giving was introduced in late 2012 – the President's Holiday Basket Extravaganza. Individuals and departments put together and raffled off themed holiday baskets – with ideas ranging from spa day to fishing, and everything in between. Employees purchased raffle tickets, and then used tickets to "bid" on the baskets they wanted. This two-pronged approach to giving meant employees could participate by creating a basket, bidding on baskets, or both. All proceeds from the basket extravaganza benefitted a new scholarship, the JJC Commitment Scholarship, which was initiated by JJC President Deb Daniels. The scholarship was established to benefit economically disadvantaged students who graduate from high schools within the JJC district.

Dr. Daniels showed her commitment to students by matching the funds collected through the Extravaganza. With 50 baskets raffled off, a total of $4,435 was raised, bringing the grand total to $8,870 with Dr. Daniels' match.

Joliet Junior College is a place where commitment and connection go hand in hand. Our employees clearly place a high priority on supporting our students, committing to and connecting with them by giving in ways that have a real impact on education. Through this, everyone benefits.

JJC Alumni Employees: Putting Education to Work

At Joliet Junior College, we often remark that the education our students receive prepares them to find the career of their dreams. But that isn't just something we say; we see it every day on campus, as JJC employees who are also graduates

> "Our alumni employees know from experience what our students go through, and they're often the students' strongest advocates."
>
> Amanda Quinn

bring education full circle. When you visit one of our campuses, you may very well speak to a JJC graduate – approximately 250 of our employees are also alumni! "It is wonderful that so many JJC alumni work at the College," says Amanda Quinn, Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager. "Our alumni employees know from experience what our students go through, and they're often the students' strongest advocates."

Joyce Coleman, Executive Director of Human Resources, agrees. "In today's hyper-competitive job market," Coleman says, "JJC alumni always stand out among their peers and are considered exceptional leaders in their chosen fields. It remains our top priority to provide a world-class education to current and future students, to ensure their place in the vast network of successful JJC."





During the inaugural President's Holiday Basket Extravaganza, employees came together to share holiday spirit and bid on gift baskets. The event benefitted the JJC Commitment Scholarship.

Through employee giving, students are able to pursue the careers of their dreams, like becoming a veterinary assistant or nurse. JJC employees are committed to bringing education to all those with a desire to learn.

Committed to Education

In 2007, Joliet Junior College worked with community representatives, architects and engineers to design a plan to meet the current and future needs of JJC. Our Master Plan was developed through this process, and our commitment to education was solidified, in cement and steel, through the many projects that have grown from the plan.

As the nation's first public community college, JJC is in a unique position of being a true original, and it shows in the work we've done to date as part of the Master Plan. Because we are distinctly suited to meet the needs of our community, by providing the education necessary to train people to fill essential jobs, the Master Plan has been developed with that in mind. Nearly 75 percent of area employers have hired a JJC student at some point over the last 10 years, and we're proud to be part of the inner workings of our community.

How, exactly, has building and renovating spaces contributed to the community and our students? Read on for an overview.

Greenhouse Facility

Opened in April 2010, the greenhouse was the first completed Master Plan project. It is the first LEED*-registered greenhouse in Illinois, and at a community college in the U.S.

Features:

- Mechanically ventilated roof structures that open and close
- Passive cooling systems.
- Computer-controlled greenhouse system
- Multipurpose classroom
- Faculty office space
- Rainwater harvesting system
- Energy-reflective roof surface
- High percentage of recycled building materials
- Energy-efficient mechanical systems and lighting





Facility Services Building

This structure, opened in February 2011, was designed to house the necessary equipment and staff to establish and maintain the physical environments of JJC.

Features:

- LEED Gold Certification
- Heated vehicle storage
- Administrative areas with natural lighting
- Shipping and receiving loading dock
- Fueling island
- Surplus good storage areas



Campus Center

This building, opened in July 2011, provides a true "front door" to Main Campus, and offers a centralized location for student services such as Admissions, Financial Aid and Counseling, plus a cafeteria and bookstore, all on the first floor. Built to meet LEED Gold certification standards, it includes LED lighting fixtures, skylights and geothermal heating and cooling. Funded largely through student fees, the Campus Center welcomes students and visitors to JJC.

Features:

- One-stop access to student services
- Abundant parking
- LEED Gold certified, incorporating green roofs
- Access to campus natural areas
- Connection to A- and C-Buildings
- Enrollment center, with admissions, financial aid and registration in one area
- Cafeteria and outdoor seating area
- Student Success Center, including counseling, tutoring and career services
- Group study rooms and expanded computer workstations within the Library
- Third floor office area for Board Room, President's suite and administrative offices

THANKS TO YOU!

Joliet Junior College is grateful for the unwavering support of our community in carrying out our Master Plan. When we've asked for referendum funding, you've come through. On behalf of our students, the faculty and staff of Joliet Junior College would like to formally say: thank you.

Automotive Technology Expansion

The expansion and renovation of this area allows us to meet the needs of this program's enrollment. Opened in August 2011, the new space helps JJC meet community needs. Because workers in the automotive technology field are in high demand, the community, through a voter-approved bond referendum, supported the project. It expanded the space used by the Automotive Technology department, and is LEED silver certified.

Features:

- New commercial shop area, with 16 service bays
- Four new classrooms
- Dedicated customer service area
- New parts and equipment storage rooms
- High efficiency HVAC equipment
- Natural sunlight
- Bio-trench areas for controlled discharge into sewer systems
- Creates 17,000 square feet of space





J-Building Renovation

When the Campus Center opened, the vacated areas of J-Building were renovated to expand academic areas for fine arts and mathematics, and for information technology. With the first phase opened in August 2011 and the final phase a year later, the building boasts everything from a new art gallery and black box theater to a new recording lab, numerous practice, class and choir rooms. Storage areas and faculty offices add to the mix.

Features:

- New facility for fine arts
- Music department triples its space, with the addition of a recording lab, classrooms, practice rooms and more
- Addition of flexible black box theater space
- New fine art gallery
- New mathematics labs and classrooms
- Expanded offices for mathematics
- Expanded offices for information technology

WHAT'S NEXT?

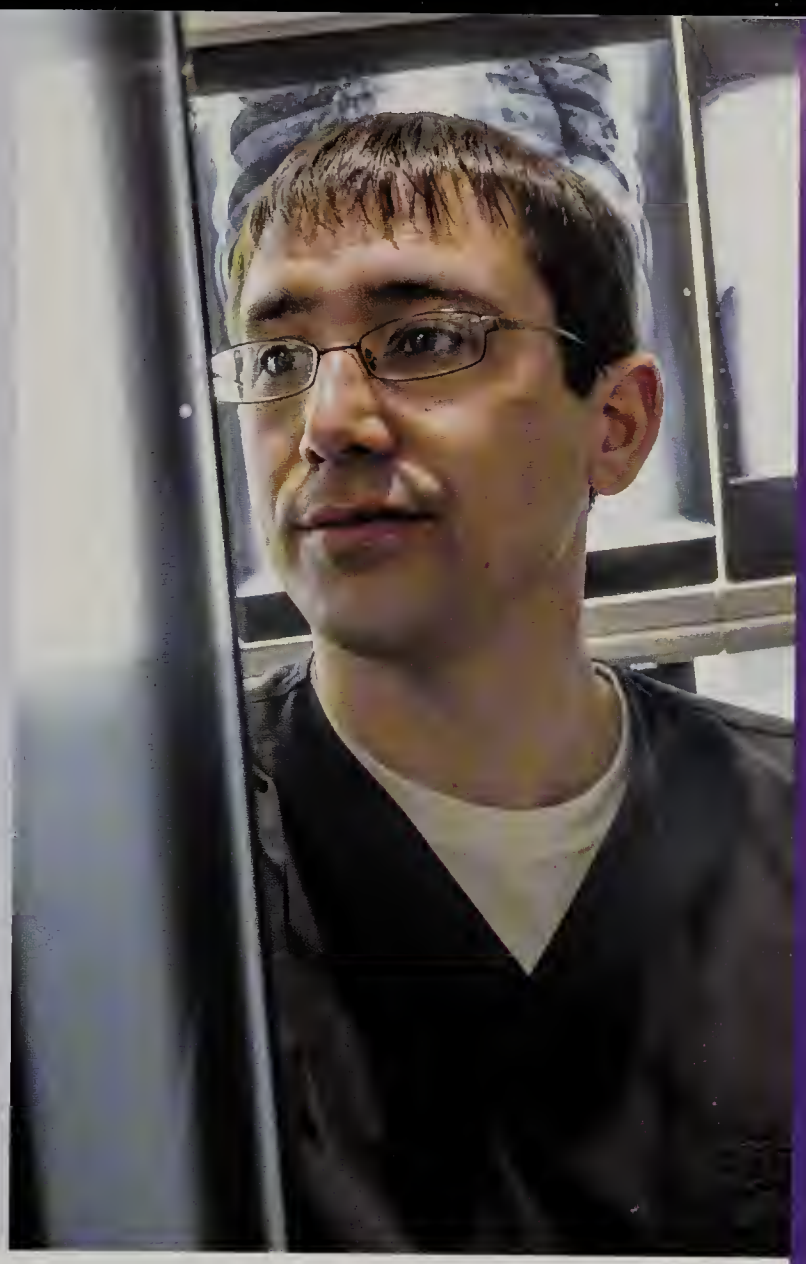
With approximately 4,000 students attending our Romeoville Campus, additional space for academic programs and student development is needed. We have a new bond issue in line to fund this project, which will provide for a more self-sufficient operation of the Campus. The plan includes extending the existing classroom wings, creating a student development area off the building's main entry, and increasing the space dedicated to parking.

Health Professions Center

After years of learning in temporary spaces, in January 2013 students moved into a true 21st-century learning environment in our Health Professions Center. The building serves the needs of our nursing, allied health and emergency services programs. In addition to increasing academic space and improving equipment, the facility allows for future expansion. When you enter the facility from the main entrance, it feels as though you're in a fire station or hospital.

Features

- Realistic training areas, such as hospital rooms and an apparatus bay to hold the JJC ambulance and fire engine
- Gathering spaces for studying between classes
- Large classrooms with an abundance of natural light
- Current equipment and technology, comparable to what's used professionally
- LEED Gold certification
- Energy efficient, as much as 30 percent more than current standards
- Heat recovery and radiant heating systems
- Ground-based geothermal system





Natural Sciences

E-Building was expanded and renovated to accommodate the Natural Sciences department. Opened in phases in August 2011 and 2012, the expansion and renovated area together create a unified space that meets the current and growing needs of the biology, chemistry, geography and physics departments. In rooms designed with ease of learning in mind.

Features:

- Renovated space of 23,000 square feet, combined with a 37,000 square-foot addition
- 21 total labs
- Completely renovated prep areas
- 10 total classrooms
- High-efficiency building envelope, solar wall, and areas of permeable pavement in courtyard, to reduce stormwater runoff
- Designed for LEED Silver certification
- White roof to reflect sunlight
- Natural light throughout

Also coming in the future, a multi-purpose facility to combine athletics, physical education, a conference center and corporate training area. This structure is planned for Main Campus.

For more information on JJC's Master Plan projects, please visit **jjc.edu/info/master-plan**

*LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations.

Committed to Global Citizenship



We live in a world as vast and varied as human imagination, and have the great fortune through technology to be able to build and maintain relationships that cross oceans and time zones. But when we have an opportunity to connect in person – to visit another country and embrace a different way of life, or have our world opened by someone who has experienced another culture ... then, we are able to become true citizens of the world.

Joliet Junior College is dedicated to educating the whole student; it's about so much more than reading, writing and arithmetic. JJC takes a full 360-degree view of global education, bringing students here from outside the U.S., and offering opportunities for students and faculty to travel abroad.

We sat down with Dr. Berta Arias, International Education Coordinator, and Dayna Crabb, International Student Services Coordinator, to gain a better understanding of JJC's commitment to educating students of the world.

"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." –Henry Miller

Dr. Berta Arias recommends traveling to anyone who can make the commitment to seeing the world. When we spoke, she was preparing to retire, and said she was looking forward to seeing where the staff takes our Study Abroad program in the future.

JJC: How dos JJC promote a global perspective for every student?

Dr. Arias: Our focus has been on bringing the world to the student, first. Not all students will have the ability to go abroad, so we bring it to them, as we've been doing for 25 years. By infusing curriculum with perspectives from all over the world, and the development of new courses with that in mind, we're able to give students an understanding that they are world citizens. Next spring, Joliet Junior College will have an International Studies program, which recognizes students for taking classes with global content. We're very proud of the program, as we are one of only a few community colleges to offer something like this.

By doing what we can to bring the world to campus, we can impact all students. Over the years, we've worked to internationalize curriculum, teaching courses that focus not just on U.S. perspectives, but world perspective. Teaching with a global point of view, bringing different regions of the world into the classroom, allows all students to broaden their worldview. Together, we learn to respect, celebrate and enjoy other cultures; it makes for a healthier, safer world all around.

We also bring activities and festivals to campus. Last September, we had a program that brought cultures from India and the Middle East to campus, with henna body art, dancing from India, Arabic calligraphy and music from the Middle East. Students were able to get an idea of another culture, which we hope inspires them to think from a larger perspective.

JJC: Tell us about opportunities to study abroad.

Dr. Arias: Since 1988, we have belonged to the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs, or ICISP. Our membership in this allows us to be part of a larger organization and band together to send students to England, China, Austria, France, Costa Rica, Spain and Ireland. Instead of sending two people every once in awhile, our membership in the consortium allows us to consistently offer study abroad opportunities.

JJC: Why is having a study abroad program important?

Dr. Arias: Students really get to experience themselves as a person from the U.S. in another culture. They come back with understanding they never could have gotten otherwise; they learn how differently people live, and that they can't assume everybody thinks the way we do. In the long run, it matters a great deal to hiring companies; international experience shows that you have a broad background.

Our staff and faculty are also able to travel abroad, and they're able to bring their experiences back with them. Faculty has been able to develop new courses, infused with international content, after visiting India, Japan and Jordan. Experiencing another culture first-hand is imperative when we consider international professional development; you expand your circle. It doesn't mean you don't appreciate your culture – in fact, it enhances it.

We're fortunate here at JJC, because the college has a long history of supporting global education. Every president has moved the program a little further, and I'm really happy Dr. Daniels is behind it 100 percent. In fact, she traveled overseas with the Title VI International Exploration Trip to Jordan, which was paid for by a joint grant with the College of Lake County.

JJC: What are your final thoughts as an educator in today's society?

Dr. Arias: Where the college is right now, with its ability to truly share a global perspective, has been a collaborative effort of all levels. As a college, we have an understanding that we all need to be more sensitive to world issues. We can study abroad, we can learn by what we bring to campus. Experiencing another culture will enhance your world beyond what anyone can explain. It is worth every effort and every penny, in tangible ways and in your world as a whole.

To learn more about JJC's International Education programming, visit www.jjc.edu/academics/divisions/arts-sciences/english-world-lang/international-education.

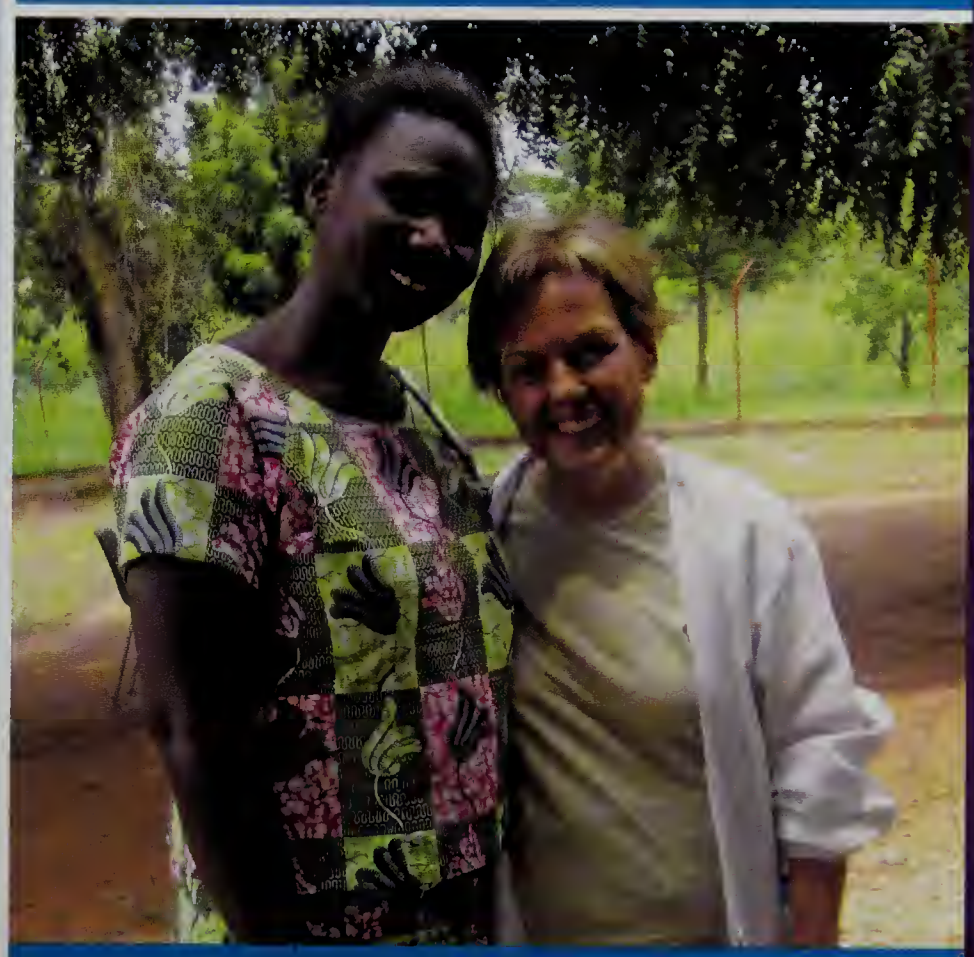
As we went to print with this issue of *Connections*, Dr. Berta Arias retired from JJC. We wish her the best, and look forward to continuing the work of educating strong global citizens.



Students and faculty spent three weeks in Matsuyama, Japan, along with students and faculty from College of Lake County. The students took classes at Ehime University and took several sightseeing trips. Here they are pictured visiting a temple in Kyoto.



JJC faculty members traveled to the country of Jordan along with President Debra Daniels as part of a Title VI Grant for Enhancement of International Education and Foreign Languages.



JJC nursing professor Lynn Noell, right, volunteered to teach at the Showers Foundation Health Center in Nebbi, Uganda.



Dayna Crabb talks with students during Main Street, sharing information about JJC's International Club.

Dayna Crabb is in a new position at JJC — International Student Services Coordinator. Her excitement about bringing students from other countries to our campus is evident as she discusses how international students can help broaden the worldview of everyone involved with JJC.

JJC: Your role at JJC is new; tell us a little about it.

Dayna Crabb: As International Student Services Coordinator, I'm really starting with a blank canvas. I will be developing and coordinating holistic services to enhance the recruitment and retention rates of international students through targeted recruitment activities, academic support services, and intervention strategies. Our office serves as a resource for international students, a liaison of sorts.

I often work with Skype [a video conferencing service that uses the Internet] to meet with people all over the world. That way, I can hold an information session in Pakistan from the comfort of home. Yes, it means being up and working at odd hours, but we can reach people at all corners of the globe this way without the expense of travel.

JJC: What areas of the world are you focusing on right now?

Dayna Crabb: I'll be visiting Vietnam in the fall to attend an education fair. I will meet with embassy officials, as well as representatives from Education USA. We know that studying in the U.S. is something students in Vietnam are seeking, with 78 percent of students from the country coming here for their undergraduate degrees. Their students are seeking out community colleges, because the majority of their population – fully 54 percent – is under the age of 35. That's a lot of people to be educated, and they – just like U.S. citizens – are looking for the best value in education. JJC can be the answer for them.

Other countries we're working with include Brazil and Indonesia. We've identified countries that have an awareness of community colleges, and an interest in what we offer.

JJC: What are some of your top priorities?

Dayna Crabb: We're building the infrastructure for working with international students – recruiting, promoting, marketing and designing policies. But it also transcends to student services, offering them opportunities to engage in activities and events, and working with faculty to ensure collaboration. Luckily for me, there are already really outstanding programs that set JJC apart from the other



What's more American than Baseball? International Club members enjoyed a Joliet Slammers game in the summer of 2013.



Faculty member Oksana Alfredson and student Kangni Mombou show their international flair at a Japanese cultural event held on campus.

community colleges, such as the LEAP Center and on-campus housing. There are also opportunities to build upon our current offerings to specifically target this new student population. For example, to supplement the New Student Orientation, I am developing a mandatory pre-arrival online orientation as well as an on-campus orientation for international students to explore topics such as American culture and public transportation.

One of my other priorities is to develop and implement a student-focused international strategic enrollment plan. I am very excited to showcase JJC as a world-class institution on a global platform. Technology makes it so much easier to communicate and build relationships with prospective students worldwide. In addition to attending education fairs abroad, I will be meeting with prospective students face-to-face through Skype and plan to host interactive online information sessions complete with virtual tours. I am also working with higher education advisers worldwide to educate them about JJC so that they can help promote the college to students seeking an education in the United States.

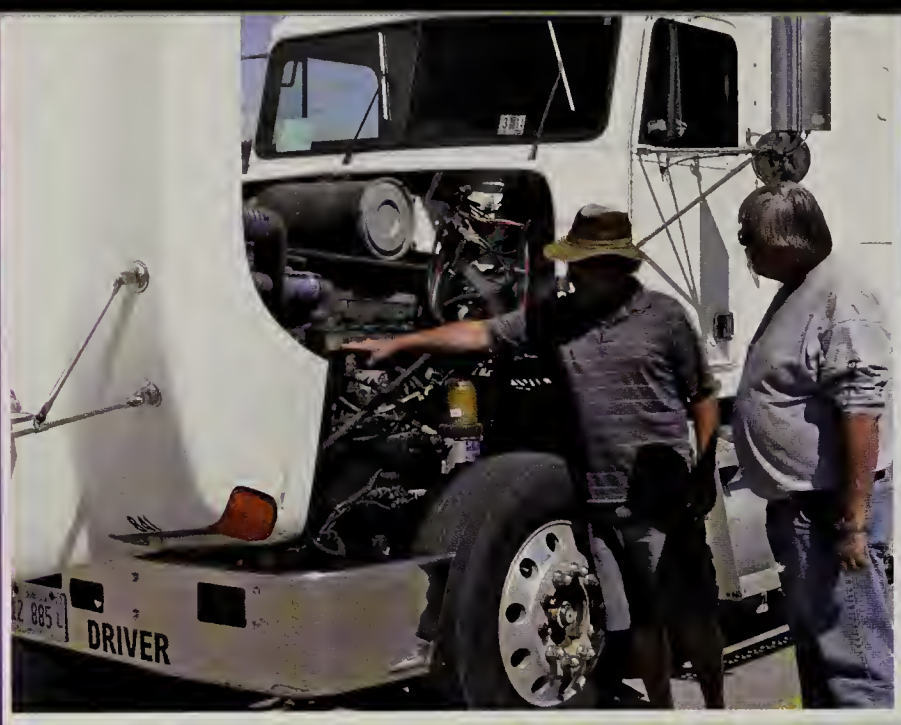
JJC: How does bringing international students to JJC benefit current students?

Dayna Crabb: JJC is already internationalizing the curriculum, so my hope is that adding international students in the classroom will naturally encourage more dialogue on-campus. This interaction will expose the JJC students to world affairs and learn about different cultures without leaving campus. Not every student can travel overseas, but we can learn from students who travel here. The new dynamic will motivate more JJC students to study abroad and provide them with a larger support system when connecting them with the international student population. To be successful in the world today, it is imperative that students become global citizens. Interacting with students from other countries will help shape the JJC students' world outlook and prepare them for a successful career with endless possibilities.

JJC: How will you bring international students together to enjoy their experience here?

Dayna Crabb: We're starting up an international club, thanks to an Award for Excellence grant. It will allow us to go on cultural excursions, such as visiting Springfield, and our recent trip to a Joliet Slammers baseball game. We also have plans to visit downtown Chicago, and go to Starved Rock for a hike.

To learn more about JJC's international student program, visit jjc.edu/admissions/international-student





Committed to Helping

JJC seeks out and applies for grants that can help community members, in the classroom and at the dinner table.

Driving America: One Veteran at a Time

Joliet Junior College was one of only six colleges in the U.S. to be awarded grant money from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to help train veterans and military families for jobs in the transportation industry. The $176,427 grant is part of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training grant program.

"As a designated military-friendly school, serving an area with more than 35,000 veterans, JJC is the ideal college to receive this grant," said Director of Corporate and Community Services Amy Murphy. "We were thrilled to get it and we are well positioned to use this grant to help local veterans and their family members get the training and job placement assistance they need."

JJC's "Driving America: One Veteran at a Time" project will provide Commercial Driver's License training to 50 veterans and/or their military families as well as job placement assistance. The project is designed to recruit veterans and/or their military family to begin a truck-driving career, and is designed for individuals with little or no commercial driving experience.

Participants will receive all training and prerequisite tests and endorsements to receive a Commercial Driver's License. In addition, the program includes the Secretary of State administered Class A road test.

In late 2012, Murphy and Grant Writer Kelly Larson decided to apply for the grant when it became available, knowing that not only would it help JJC serve local veterans but that it could also help meet the growing demand for qualified workers in the transportation industry in the region.

According to the Will County Center for Economic Development, "With its concentration of transportation assets, industrial base and growing distribution function, Will County has taken shape as an Inland Port in the past decade. Not unlike traditional coastal ports, Will County facilitates the movement of freight on a large scale. Growth in freight capacity has established Will County as an important link in global supply chains and elevated Will County's role in the regional economy."

The program can be completed in four weeks, and will take place at the Joliet Junior College Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center, 17840 Laraway Road, Joliet.

For more information or to apply, contact Amy Murphy at **amurphy@jjc.edu** or (815) 280-1418.

To learn more about JJC's CDL program, visit: **www.trainingupdate.org/seminars/Pages/CommercialDriversLicenseTraining.aspx**

To learn more about JJC's veteran services, visit: **www.jjc.edu/services-for-students/paying-for-college/financial-aid/Pages/veterans.aspx**



JJC Farmers Market

In May 2013, Joliet Junior College began hosting a weekly farmers market, thanks to a $92,000 grant awarded to the college last fall from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP). JJC is the only community college in the nation to receive grant funding from this program.

Every Thursday, the area around our Greenhouse Facility was opened to area vendors, bringing fresh seasonal produce to shoppers. The market also featured cheeses, local organic meats and a variety of baked goods. As with most farmers markets, vendors changed from week to week, but a consistent supply of delicious fruits and vegetables has been plentiful from the day it opened.

"We're so pleased to host a farmers market at JJC," said Donna Theimer, department chair of agriculture and horticulture. "With a wide variety of local vendors, it's been a great opportunity to support our local farmers and businesses and provide our community with fresh food." One important attribute to the JJC Farmers Market – which will continue in summer 2014 – is that cash and SNAP/LINK cards are accepted.

The market was held every Thursday from May 23 to Oct. 3, (except July 4) from 3 to 7 p.m. Visitors parked near the Greenhouse and shopped the various food booths in the warmth of the summer sun. A lemon shake-up vendor helped everyone stay cool, and visitors seemed to enjoy buying local produce in such a beautiful setting.

JJC was one of 131 projects in 39 states to receive funding under the USDA's FMPP. The grants are targeted to help increase and strengthen direct producer-to-consumer marketing channels. Through a competitive grants application process, FMPP funds marketing proposals not only for farmers markets but also for community-supported agriculture programs.

For more information on the Grant Development Office, visit **www.jjc.edu/about/foundation/grant-development/**







COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Our Mission in Action

The mission of JJC is at the heart of everything we do. Each department provides needed programs and services to bring our mission to life, for our students, and for community members, too. In this issue of Connections, we wanted to introduce a few departments that serve our mission in ways you may not be aware of.





The Department of Adult Education and Literacy

JJC's mission puts our commitment into words, and it's evident in everything we do. One of the ways we reach out to the community is through the Department of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL), which provides tools, resources, instruction and support necessary for students in the community to achieve their individual, academic and employment goals. DAEL offers adult education instruction, support, and transition programs and services for adults 16 years and older who have not completed high school, who need to brush up on reading, writing, or math skills for further education and training, or who are not native English speakers or writers. The department is responsible for GED preparation and review, and students who pass GED testing are invited to participate in a special graduation ceremony each spring.

The ceremony provides recognition of earning the equivalent high school graduation credit, and is an important way for graduates to celebrate their achievement.

Additional offerings of DAEL include English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education and Pre-GED, United States Citizenship courses, and a variety of support services. To learn more, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/dafs**

Career Services

Career Services provides comprehensive career and employment services to students and the community. Services include assistance in choosing a major, career assessments, on-campus recruitment, job fairs, assistance in finding on- and off- campus employment, and information on internships with help available in developing resumes, cover letters and interviewing skills.

One way Career Services reaches out to the community is through a series of job fairs, held throughout the year. The popular Skilled Trades Career Fair, held in the fall, is great opportunity for skilled laborers in the manufacturing industry to meet with local companies and learn what opportunities are available, as well as the requirements for specific jobs.

Additional offerings from Career Services include:

Walk-in resume assistance. Whether you're updating, needing a critique or starting from scratch, just walk in.

"What's Your Career Pathway?" Workshops. For students who are undecided about their major or career plans.

See **www.jjc.edu/info/careers** for available times, and information on the other programs offered.

plus 50
Community Colleges: AGELESS LEARNING



The Plus 50 Workforce Center helps job candidates ages 50 and up hone their skills in resume development, job searching and more.

Workforce Development and Plus 50

The Workforce Development office is committed to encouraging local economic development by cultivating partnerships to provide comprehensive services to the Will and Grundy County workforces. One important avenue through which they offer services is through the Plus 50 Workforce Center.

The center offers career programs and services geared specially to the adult learner having the opportunities and challenges of choosing a new career after age 50. The Joliet Junior College Plus 50 Workforce Center helps the mature worker face the challenges of obtaining employment after the age of 50. Plus 50 holds workshops that can help with resume development, Internet job searches, networking and more. Workshops are held at the City Center Campus in downtown Joliet, and are free to attend.

See the full listing of workshops, plus learn all about Workforce Development at **www.jjc.edu/continuing education/workforce-development/**

The Joliet Junior College Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

32nd Annual Alumni Brunch

Nearly 200 alumni, retirees, faculty, staff, and friends of the college attended the 32nd Annual Alumni Brunch on June 2. In addition to celebrating the class reunions for 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983, a number of awards were presented to deserving individuals. Ronald M. Whitaker received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Paul Lester, received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award; and Kurt Nelson, received the Faculty Prestige Award.





Ronald M. Whitaker, '69

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Ronald Whitaker graduated from JJC in 1969, and served as secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1967 through 1970. He recalls his educational experience at JJC as being unique, because he was on the board while also a student. A lifelong resident of New Lenox, Whitaker says his JJC education helped him in his business, as owner and operator of Ronald M. Whitaker and Company, an independent insurance agency. Whitaker served as president of the Joliet Junior College Alumni Association in 1973 and 1974. He served as president of the New Lenox chamber of commerce in 1961; president of the Independent Insurance Agents Association in 1989; and chairman of the New Lenox Board of Fire and Police Commissioners from 1981 through 2002. He is currently president of the New Lenox Area Historical Society. Whitaker credits his wife, Mary, with being his biggest supporter. The two have enjoyed seeing the world together, including two photo safaris in Africa. They have two sons, R. David and Andrew.



Paul Lester

Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award

Professor Emeritus Paul Lester enjoyed a teaching career at JJC that spanned from 1946 to 1980. Prior to teaching at JJC, he taught music at Joliet Township High School. During that time, he became known in the area for operetta productions and appearances at the Rialto Theater, among other performances. In 1964 he transitioned to a career as a professor of history and social science at JJC. He enjoyed seeing some of his former students grow and mature on campus. While at JJC, Lester taught classes and also served as a student advisor and on numerous committees. Lester is honorary director of the Joliet Township High School Choir Alumni Association, and has worked with numerous organizations, including the Joliet Area Historical Society (a position he has held since 1982), Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 and the American Federation of Musicians. Paul and his wife Katherine have three children, Paula Lester, Carolyn Lester and Nancy Sitton. He enjoys gardening, and is a Midwest test rose grower for Jackson Perkins.



Kurt Nelson '07

Faculty Prestige Award

Kurt Nelson, Assistant Professor in the Technical Department, is a 2007 graduate of JJC. He says that as a student, and later as a faculty member, he appreciates the sense of family, community and belonging that is created at Joliet Junior College. Nelson describes JJC as somewhere you can come back to and feel comfortable, day after day. A world traveler, he has studied in Italy and England. While studying at JJC, Nelson was President of the Collegiate Club Council, served on Student Government, and was President of the Manufacturing Association. He received the Student Service Award and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He is currently studying at Lewis University, where he is working on a proposal to begin a student-teacher scholarship in the theology department. If accepted, it will be the first of its kind. Putting his JJC education and work into practice, he also works with the U.S. Department of Energy, certifying machinists who work at Argonne National Laboratory or Los Alamos National Laboratory.



Elmer Rowley's children, John Rowley, Joanne Harvey, Carol Imig and Jean Stone



Raymond Crompton, Robert Glasscock, Scott Glasscock and Billy Glasscock, William Glasscock's family

Road Naming Dedication

During the Alumni Brunch, we also held a road naming and dedication ceremony, to honor four people who were responsible for JJC's beginnings and continued success. Those we've recognized with a road named in their honor are: Elmer W. Rowley, Edward Cwiklo, William Glasscock, and J. Stanley Brown.



Ginny and Grant Brown, J. Stanley Brown's family

Elmer W. Rowley Drive
The entrance road is named in honor of Elmer W. Rowley. On August 15, 1967, Rowley, '29, started the first of three years as president of Joliet Junior College District 525. Rowley served as dean for 20 years (1947-1967) prior to being appointed president.

William Glasscock Drive
The outer ring road is named in honor of William Glasscock, '37. Glasscock was the first president of the JJC Board of Trustees. He was instrumental in bringing the alumni bell to the Houbolt Road campus.

Edward Cwiklo Lane
The exit road is named in honor of Edward Cwiklo, '35. Cwiklo donated $2.5 million of unrestricted funds to the JJC Foundation. Those funds brought the endowment to $10.1 million and help supplement more than $765,000 in scholarships that provide tuition, textbooks and fees to more than 550 students at JJC.

J. Stanley Brown Lane
The inner ring road is named in honor of J. Stanley Brown. Brown was one of the founders of Joliet Junior College. He was principal of Joliet High School in 1893 and was the superintendent of schools in 1901.

The Colleges of the People

The Initial Commitment of Advanced Credit in J. Stanley Brown's Letters.

> *"The growth of the course of study in the secondary school has been a gradual evolution touching both the amount of time to be spent in completing the course, and the subject-matter of the course. Less than half a century ago, high schools were very little known, and the course of study began with one group of studies offered for one year. … Some have a fifth year's work, and a few have a sixth year. The fifth and sixth years represent fairly the first two years of the college, and the work done in these years is accepted by the college, advanced credit toward graduation being given. The curriculum ought to be broadened as well as extended."*



Superintendent J. Stanley Brown, "In What Respects Should the High School be Modified to Meet Twentieth Century Demands," School Review, 1904.

Very little in our world begins without the intention of being completed. We have a thought, we find space for it to materialize, and we dedicate ourselves to bringing the thought to its logical conclusion. In short, commitment takes an idea to fruition.

The creation of community colleges started with just an idea. In the beginning, it was nothing more than a handful of students and teachers willing to negotiate the experimental nature of education. Their commitment revolutionized the American education system.

We think of Joliet Junior College having its roots in 1901, when the Joliet Township High School Board of Education minutes revealed that Superintendent J. Stanley Brown wanted to create a curriculum that would allow students who wanted to continue their education after secondary school to take courses in during their fifth and sixth years at Joliet Township High School. Those courses were eligible to transfer to either University of Illinois, or University of Michigan.

While this is the first documented mention of Brown's new curriculum, his idea had been gaining momentum for a few years before that.

In the late 1890s, Brown established relationships with faculty at universities throughout the Midwest, encouraging them to accept secondary school course credits in advanced studies at their universities. Francis W. Kelsey, professor of Latin and Literature at University of Michigan, wrote to Brown in 1896, saying, "I am much pleased to hear that you have taken your students over more than the required preparatory work. If you will kindly give to those who come to the University of Michigan a certificate to the effect that the extra work has been well done, I will see that advanced credit is given for it."

Kelsey's letter is just one in our archives, detailing the relationships that showcase J. Stanley Brown's commitment to education. Brown believed that the way we learn could change, and it could change for the better of all society. In his first address to the JTHS students in September of 1903, he said " … the secondary schools are the colleges of the people. We no longer need to look to the eastern part of the country, as we keep pace, and even set the pace here in the west." Through his letters, we see a person committed to his ideals, to his community and to the education of its people.



Joseph H. Drake's letter to Brown in 1898

632 Forest Ave., Ann Arbor, May 24, 1898

My dear Mr. Brown:

I have been intending for some time
write you personally in regard to your school, which
ve already reported favorably upon to the University
t the work piled up so during my absence that I
e just getting to my correspondence once more.

The school as a whole made a favorable impres
both Dr. Reed and myself tho' we both felt you
re carrying a heavy handicap in having to work
ch an unsuitable building. I hope the pro
a new - entirely new - building may become a

171

tuality in the near future.

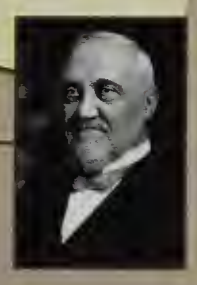
The work in Latin was good. I think I
e personally the only criticism that might
ssibly passed upon it; namely, that more attent
ight be given to the reading of Latin as La
ay repeat my caution that this does not m
e are to give up the many good things you
ve: the excellent translations into good En
ccurate distinctions in meanings of words,
ill in syntax of the oral-prose work, an
ork in mythology and geography. Th
e Latin may, however, be made an e
ining all these excellences. It certain

Ann Arbor, Michigan
2 June, 1896

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your favor of 2 May is at hand. I am much pleased to learn that you have taken from students ever more than the required preparatory work. If you will kindly send me somewhat reduced in length, appeared in the Educational Review for last February. With all best wishes for your work I remain

Yours sincerely,
Francis W. Kelsey



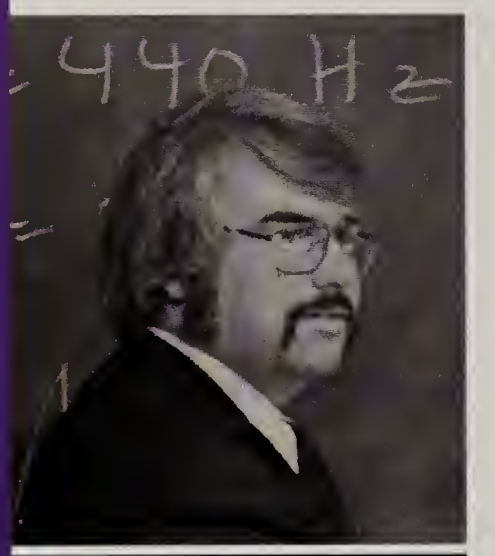
Franics W. Kelsey's letter to Brown in 1896

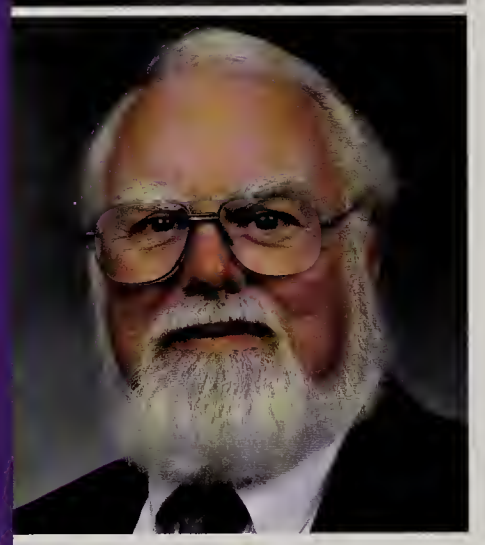
Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Andrew Lenaghan,
Associate Professor, Librarian
Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: 815.280.2534
email: alenagha@jjc.edu

People Then and Now





Curtis Hieggelke

THEN

Curtis Hieggelke began his career at JJC in 1971 completing Ph.D. work in particle physics at the University of Nebraska. The first thing that he worked on was updating labs and experiments designed in the 1940s and 50s with new equipment and labs that included purchasing shared scientific calculators (for $300 each!) In 1990, he began working with new tools such as microcomputers, curriculum materials and strategies using the results of Physics Education Research (PER), and powerful Mac computer software and physics lab hardware. During his time at JJC, he co-authored five books (one being finished after retirement), and created two new elective courses for students, one in physics for non-science students, and another in robotics for students in technical programs.

NOW

Since his retirement in 2003, Heiggelke spends a lot of time in Chicago attending theatre productions, concerts, lectures at the Harold Washington Library and other Chicago events such as the Blackhawks parade, Taste of Chicago and Northwestern football games. Last spring, he served as a physics adjunct professor at Roosevelt. He also enjoys reading and is part of the book club in his condo building in Chicago. He still has his house in Joliet and enjoys visiting friends and fellow JJC teachers while in Joliet. He travels to enjoy his children and grandchildren in Portland, OR.

Sue Malmberg



THEN

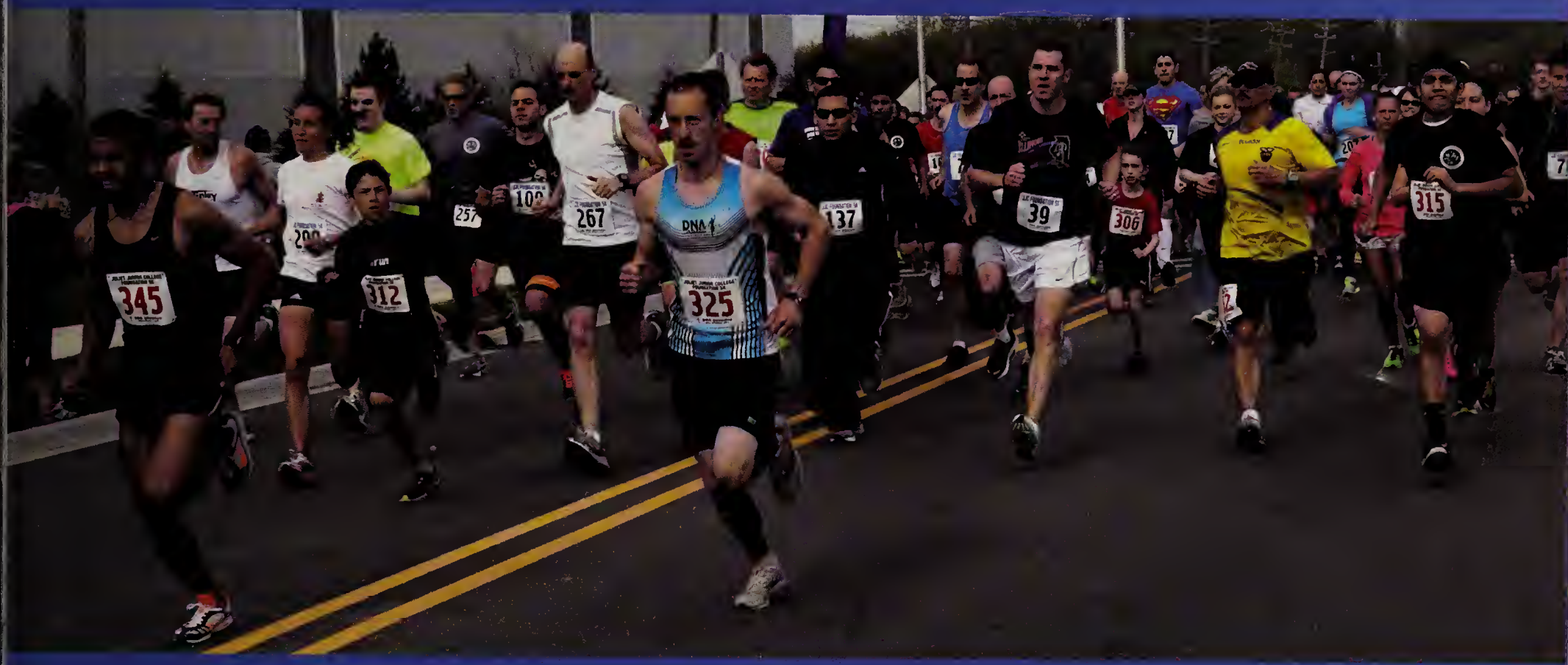
Sue Malmberg began teaching at JJC in 1979. Her teaching disciplines at JJC included Applied Piano, Class Piano, Music Literature, American Music, and Advanced Music Theory. She served as an Academic Advisor and for ten years was an Advisor for Phi Theta Kappa. While at JJC, she was the Musical Director for more than 20 productions with the JJC Fine Arts Department; these remain a highlight of her career. She has performed throughout Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, and Tennessee, and served as an accompanist for students, faculty, and visiting artists. In 1991, Sue was a featured pianist on the six-volume piano/vocal series *Musical Theatre Classics*, published by Hal Leonard.



NOW

Sue retired from JJC in 2008 after a teaching career that spanned 29 years. She has continued her work in the area of musical theatre and has directed productions with the Curtain Call Theatre, The Chicago Heights Drama Guild, Joliet Junior College and The SG Entertainers Broadway Revues. She has lectured on the subjects of *The Golden Age of The American Musical* and *Tin Pan Alley*. She also serves on the JJC SUAA Executive Board and volunteers at the Joliet Area Community Hospice. She has wonderful memories of her career at JJC and always enjoys running into former students throughout the Chicago area.

Thank You to our 5K Sponsors



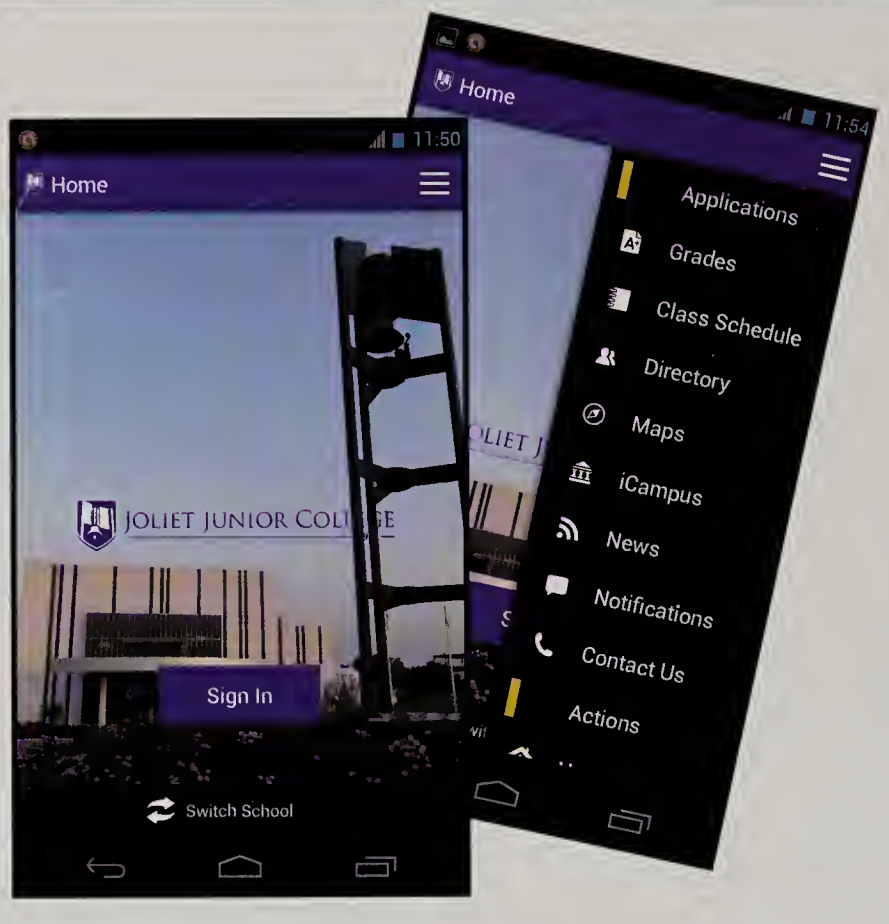
Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K Run and Walk
Saturday, May 4, 2013

Abri Credit Union
ATI Physical Therapy
Baldwin and Company Insurance - Jeffrey A. Barnes
Bisping Construction Co.
C. R. Leonard Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
Coalesse
William R. Conte - Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Corporate Benefit Consultants, Inc.
D.E.S. Painting Inc.
Design Consulting Engineers
DeVriendt & Associates LLC
DNA Sports
First Midwest Bank
Gilbane Building Company
Haas Factory Outlet, A Division of HFO Chicago, LLC
Hometown National Bank
Hometown Suburban Vending, Inc.
Johnson Controls
Joliet Park District
Kavanagh Grumley & Gorbold, LLC
Kingston Tile Company Ltd.
Kluber Architects & Engineers
L. DeGeus & Associates, Inc.
Legat Architects
Lindblad Construction
Mazon State Bank
McKeown, Fitzgerald, Zollner, Buck, Hutchison & Ruttle
Midwest Energy Inc.
Mortenson Construction
Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co.
The Northern Trust Company
OEC Business Interiors, Inc.
Ruettiger, Tonelli & Assoc., Inc.
Sentinel Technologies, Inc.
R. L. Sohol
Sullivan Roofing, Inc.
Steelcase
Sysco Food Services
TCBY
Testa Produce, Inc.
United Parcel Service
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

To learn more about the 5K, and to sign up when registration opens for the 2014 event, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k

Around Campus

What's happening around JJC.



JJC Launches Mobile App

Joliet Junior College has gone mobile with its first-ever mobile app, available for Android and Apple smartphones.

The app includes several features designed to help students and others stay up-to-date with their courses, account information, college events and more.

Key features include:

- Courses — View your course schedule
- Grades — Check final grades
- Account Notifications — Up-to-date account notifications
- Bookstore — Find and purchase books for your courses
- Contact Us — Easily find all the numbers you need
- Maps — Get directions from campus to campus
- News — Connect to everything happening at JJC
- Events — Never miss another sporting or school event

"We're thrilled to launch the JJC Mobile app for Android and Apple devices, which represent a combined 97.5% of all mobile traffic to JJC web sites," said Jim Serr, interim executive director of IT. "The JJC Mobile app will put pertinent information at students' fingertips in a fun, easy-to-use interface."

Android users can download the app from the Google Play store, while iPhone users will find it in the App Store.

9/11 Survivor Speaks at JJC

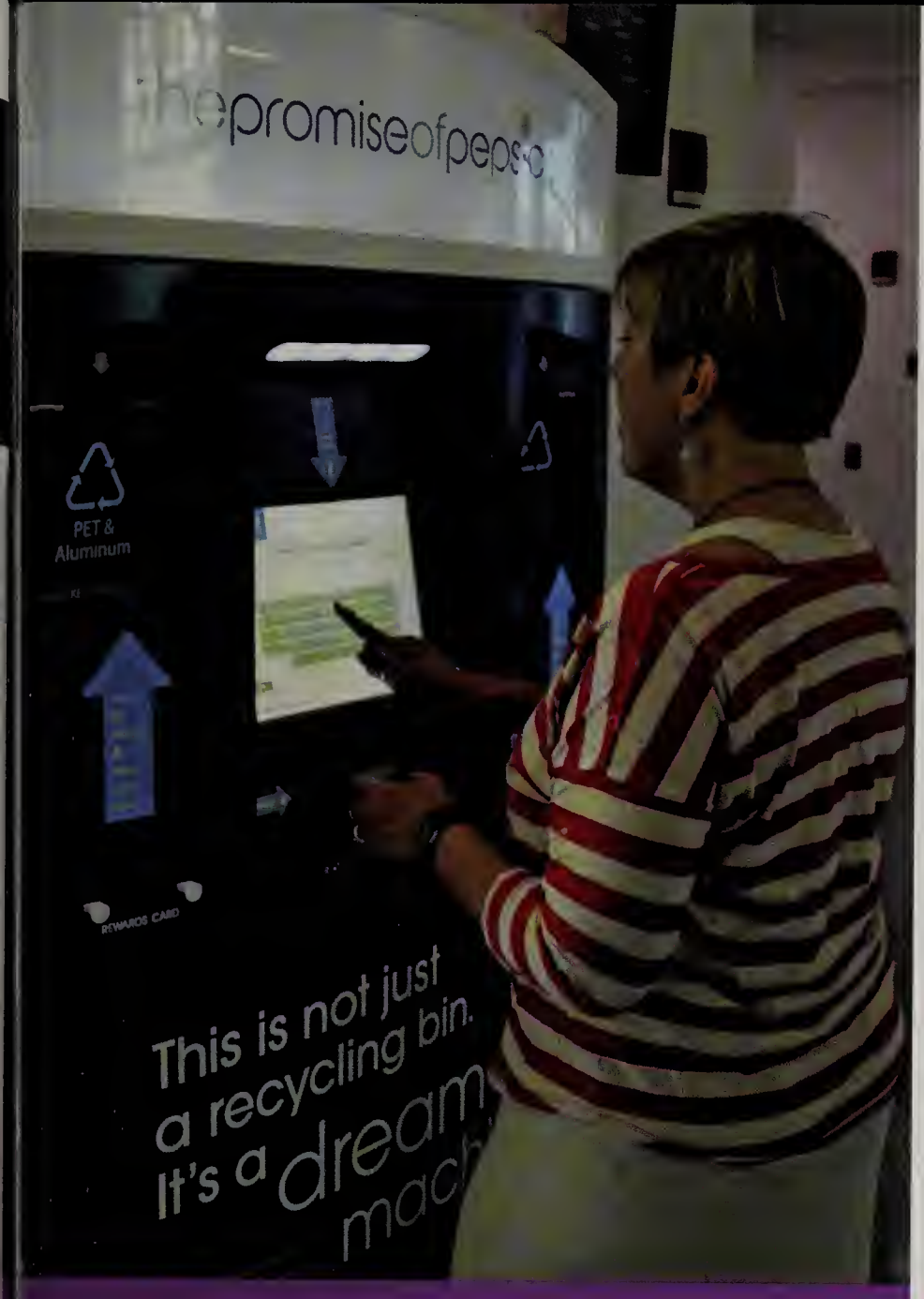
Blind 9/11 survivor and New York Times best-selling author Michael Hingson visited JJC on Thursday, Sept. 12, sharing his story with employees, students and visitors who came to hear him speak. Hingson also met with visitors and and signed copies of his book "Thunder Dog."

As was the case with many Americans, Michael Hingson's life changed dramatically on Sept. 11, 2001. He and his guide dog Roselle were among those working in the World Trade Center that day, experiencing the terrorist attacks first hand. Through a remarkable demonstration of trust and teamwork, Michael and Roselle escaped from the 78th floor of Tower One moments before it collapsed.

For more information about Michael, visit www.michaelhingson.com.



New York Times best-selling author Michel Hingson and his guide dog.



The Dream Machine in use on Main Campus.

Purple and You Make Green

The Dream Machine Recycling Initiative, created by PepsiCo, has arrived on Main Campus to promote recycling. The Dream Machine – located just outside the cafeteria in the Campus Center – is a beverage container recycling station, designed to help increase the national recycling rate. The more bottles and cans recycled through the Dream Machine program, the more support PepsiCo will provide to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities. Students, staff and faculty can obtain a Dream Machine card, and then "feed" the machine their empty recyclable bottles and cans. In return, participants receive points, good for rewards at local businesses.

Check out the Dream Machine kiosks on participating college and university campuses and see how you can make a difference. It's pretty simple: you turn in your empty beverage cans and bottles, you help the environment, aid veterans with disabilities and earn yourself reward points!

Learn more at pepsicorecycling.com.

Fab Lab Comes to JJC

As part of his initiative to increase interest in science, technology, math and engineering (STEM), Congressman Bill Foster (D-11) visited Joliet Junior College on Monday, Aug. 12 to launch the Fab Lab, a state-of-the-art fabrication laboratory where children and adults can invent, design and manufacture a prototype of nearly any kind of product they can imagine.

The Fab Lab, which was open to the public for three days on the JJC Main Campus, was developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Bits and Atoms. It features rapid prototyping technology such as 3-D printers that allows the user to design and develop a prototype of anything from a keychain to a robot.

At the kickoff event, JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels said that the college was pleased to partner with the Congressman on his initiatives to promote STEM. "When we were asked to host the Fab Lab at Joliet Junior College, we didn't have to think twice," she said. "JJC is a resource to our community in many ways, so we're pleased to provide this exciting learning opportunity for not only our students but all community members as well."

Find the full story at news.jjc.edu/2013/08/congressman-foster-promotes-science-innovation/



As part of his initiative to increase interest in science, technology, math and engineering (STEM), Congressman Bill Foster (D-11) brought the Fab Lab, a state-of-the-art mobile fabrication laboratory to JJC's Main Campus.

PROVIDING A COMPLETE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



It can be difficult to put your finger on the exact reasons why student engagement matters, but one thing is clear: students who are engaged in college activities outside the classroom tend to be engaged inside the classroom, too. "Research indicates that students who are involved are more likely to be successful within their education," says Pam Dilday, Director of the Office of Student Activities. "And, they continue on to be successful, because it adds an element of connection and allows them to get to know not only their fellow students but also staff members, who can assist them with their future planning. It's a win-win ... students will have more fun and gain experience that will help them later on."

Part of JJC's commitment to students is our dedication to providing them with a true college experience, with many similarities to four-year schools. The variety of available activities means every student can find something he or she is interested in, including such offerings as:

Honorary Societies

Among the honorary societies on campus, students can choose from one specifically for nursing students; those with an interest in theater; those studying foreign language; students who meet the criteria for Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society of community colleges; Veterans; and those who want to engage in social activities and service projects.

Multicultural Organizations

Students can join clubs that bring them together with people who share similar backgrounds within organized groups at JJC.

Political Groups

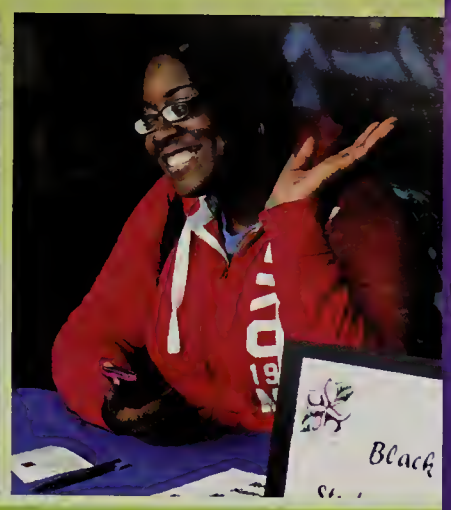
The JJC Student Government is elected by the student body to represent the opinions, rights, interests and concerns of the students. Our Progressive Student Union promotes activism for the benefit of the community.

Professional Groups

Grassroots professional networking starts right here! We have groups for all types of professional interests, including the Automotive Services Association, Criminal Justice Club, Competitive Cooking Club, Epicurean Club, Interior Design Club, Nursing Student Association, Psychology and Social Services Resource Club, Student Agriculture Association, Student Horticultural Association and Teachers of Tomorrow Club.







Recreational Groups

Discover a new hobby, or work on those you already have, with these groups. Among our offerings, students will find Chess Club, Gamers Club and the JJC Comedy Club.

Special Interest

Broaden your horizons by meeting people with a particular interest or background, such as American Sign Language, awareness of the natural sciences, United Way, reading, parenting, and Veterans.

Spiritual Groups

Join with students who share your beliefs in a variety of groups that embrace different religions and beliefs.

Volunteering

The Holistic Wellness Office can help interested students find meaningful volunteer opportunities in everything from child care to recreational positions, and much more.



Athletics

JJC Athletics provides a program with dedicated coaches, staff and student athletes who work together to excel in the classroom and on their teams. From national championships to All-Americans, JJC is proud of its tradition of successful teams and athletes.

And More

There are groups designed around publications, athletics, music and more. There is quite literally something for everyone!

To learn more about how JJC is committed to giving students a complete college experience, visit www.jjc.edu/student-life/get-involved

Top 10 Reasons to Be Involved at JJC

1. Many events feature free food.
2. Transfer students gain experiences to include on college applications.
3. Build a resume that shows involvement.
4. Gain leadership skills, and get hands-on experience by becoming a club officer.
5. Meet people with similar interests.
6. Reduce boredom.
7. Learn outside the classroom.
8. Begin creating a professional network.
9. Have the opportunity to make a difference.
10. Most importantly, to have fun!

On-Campus Housing

Joliet Junior College sets itself apart from most other community colleges by being one of few to offer housing. Centennial Commons, located at the heart of JJC's Main Campus, provides premier housing in a student-centered community. Students discover everything they need to succeed in their college endeavors.



Commitment, in Writing

In March of this year, members of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Lambda Phi chapter invited students to pledge their intention to finish whatever degree or certificate program they are part of. The pledge was signed by participants who agreed to "commit to complete" and receive their credentials following graduation.

2013 Events at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events

Alumni Employee Holiday Reception
Dec. 4, 2013

JJC Foundation Donor Dinner/Scholarship Recognition Event
March 13, 2014

5th Annual Joliet Junior College Foundation 5K Run/Walk at Main Campus
May 3, 2014

Commencement
May 16, 2014

33rd Annual Alumni Brunch at Main Campus
June 1, 2014

Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium

Tuesday Shows - 7:30 p.m.

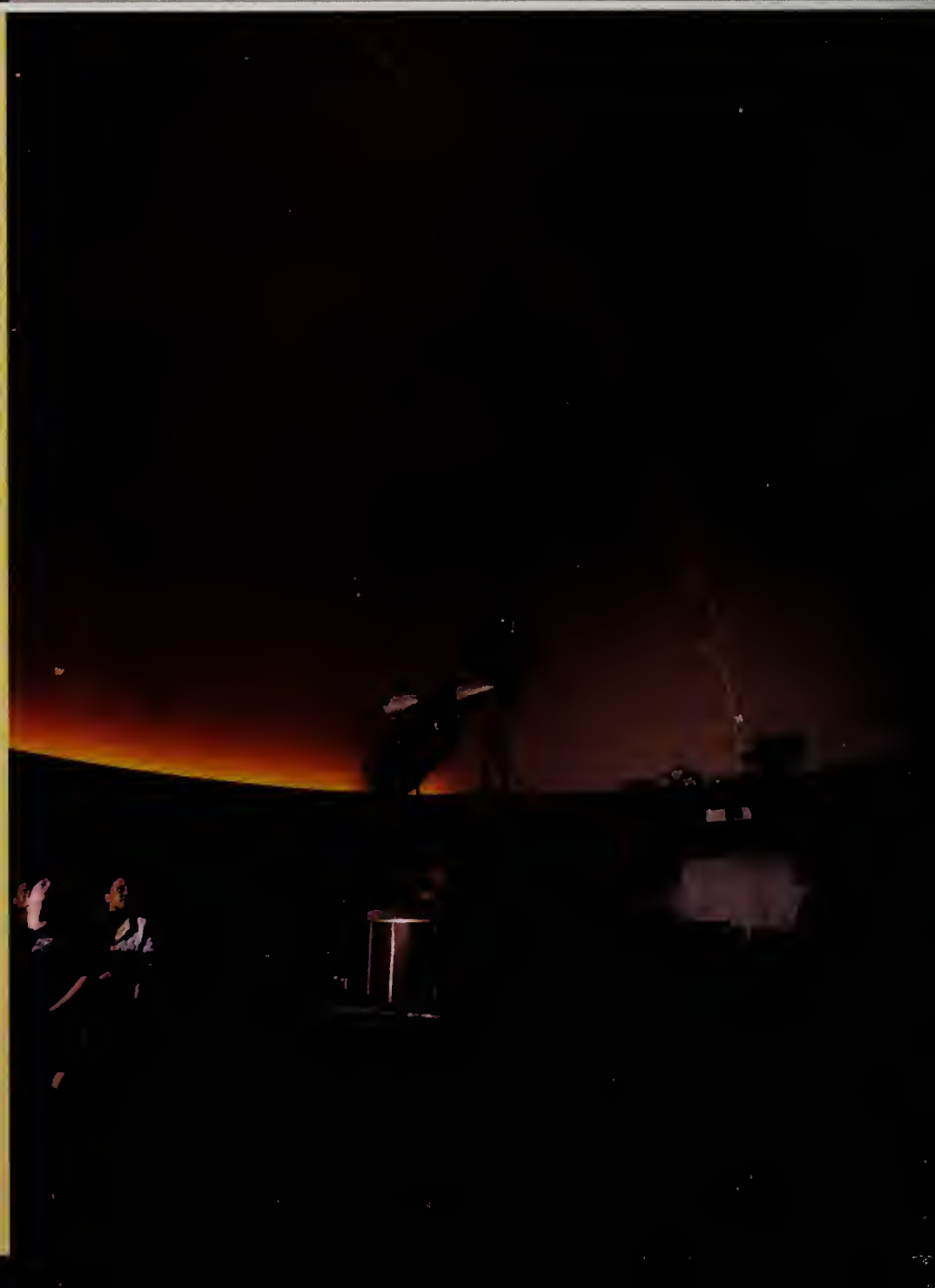
Oct. 29	Humans & Robots in Space
Nov. 12	Comet Ison
Nov. 26	Telescope Basics
Dec. 10	Christmas Star

Thursday Shows - 6:30 p.m.

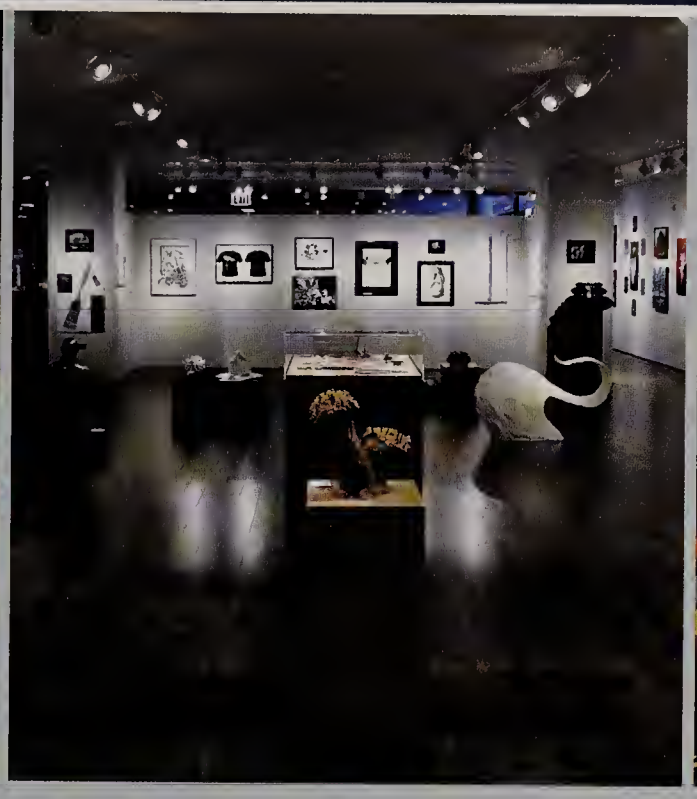
Nov. 7	Humans & Robots in Space
Nov. 21	Comet Ison
Dec. 5	A Trip to the Moon

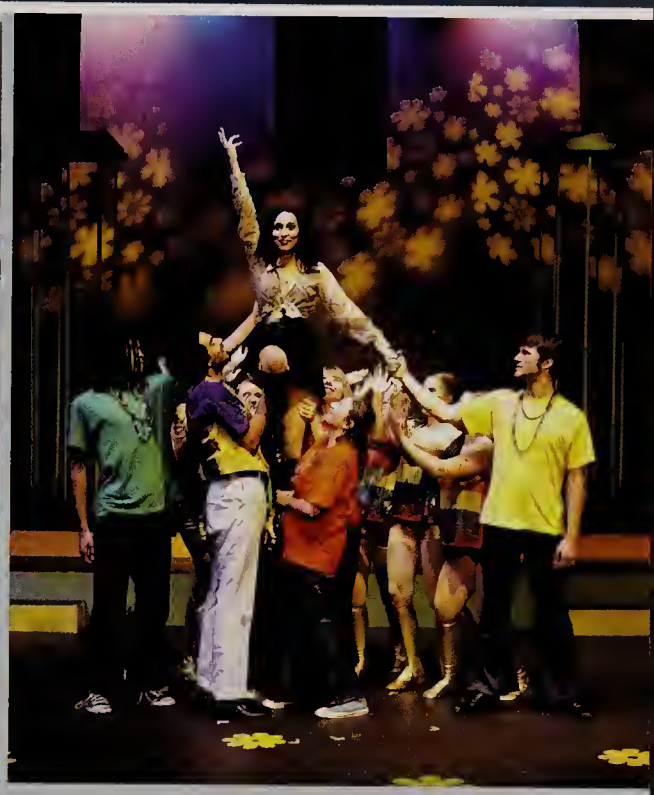
Sunday Holiday Show 2 p.m.

Dec. 15	Christmas Star









Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra
Oct. 27 - 4 p.m.

Student Recital
Oct. 30 - 11 a.m.

Film: Ken Burns' Jazz, Episode 6: Swing, the Velocity of Celebration
Nov. 1

Film: International Sweethearts of Rhythm
Nov. 8

JJC Area High School Art Exhibition
Nov. 12–26

May I Have This Dance? Swing demonstration and group lesson
Nov. 15 - 2:30 pm

Student Recital
Nov. 20 - 11 a.m.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Dir. by Tammy Perkins
Nov. 21-23 - 7:30 p.m.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Dir. by Tammy Perkins
Nov. 24 - 2 p.m.

JJC Area High School Art Exhibition
Dec. 2–13

Jazz Band Concert
Dec. 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Carols and Chocolate Concert, JJC Chorale
Dec. 8 - 3 p.m.

MadriGala with the JJC Chamber Singers
Dec. 13 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Band Concert
Dec. 15 - 3 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion Ensemble Concert
Dec. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/about/community-interests** for more information.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

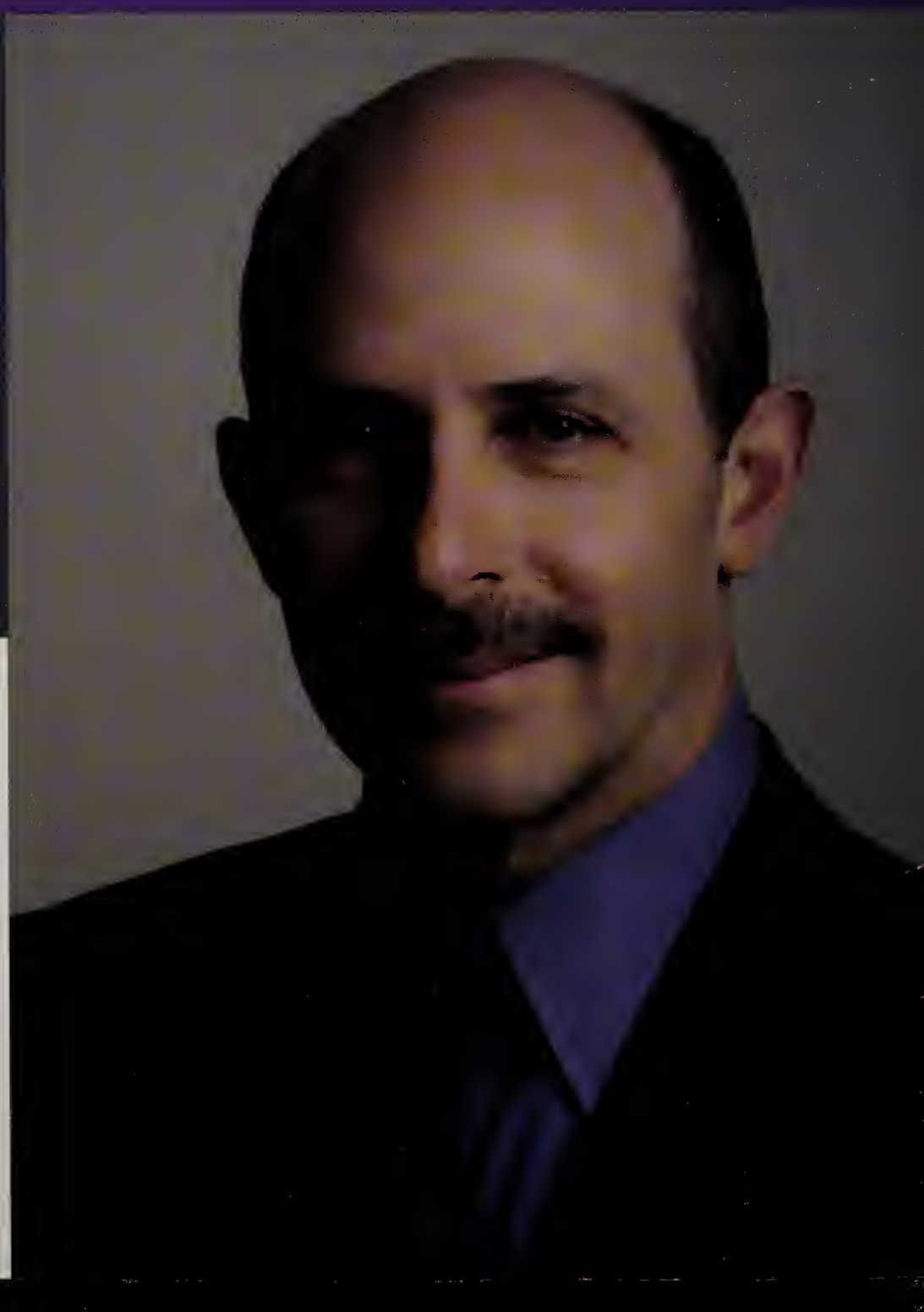
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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

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Superior Court Judge **Jerry Costello**, a **1979 graduate**, enjoyed his first courses in law at JJC, earning his degree in law enforcement administration. The study habits he learned led him to law school and a career trying cases, before being elected to the court in Pierce County, WA.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine



CONNECTING THE DOTS

Pathways to Success



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

JJC helps students meet educational goals by being fiscally responsible, and committed to our mission.

SPRING 2014

Buy Local at the JJC Farmers Market



Every Thursday

May 29 - September 18

(not open July 3)

2 - 6 p.m.

in the JJC Greenhouse parking lot

Fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, meats, cheeses and other local products.

Link cards accepted.

This advertisement is based on work supported under by the Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, under Award No. 12-25-G-1566. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Joliet Junior College Farmers Market is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to expand the availability of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables in Joliet.



jjc.edu/info/farmersmarket

CONNECTIONS

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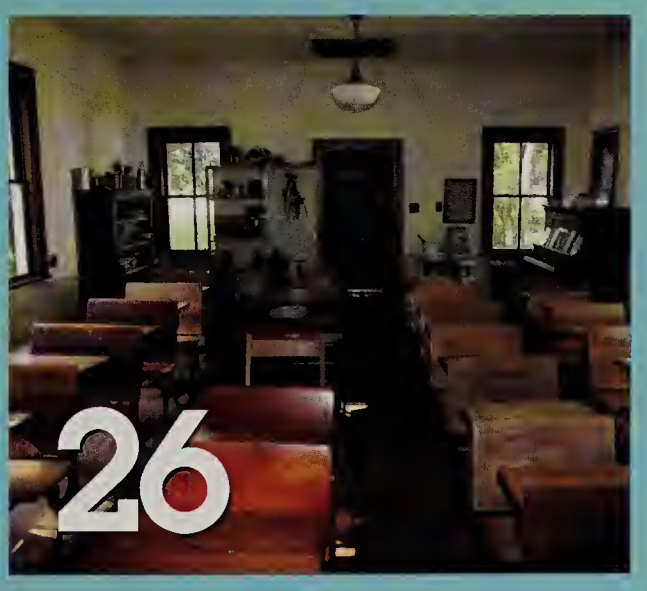
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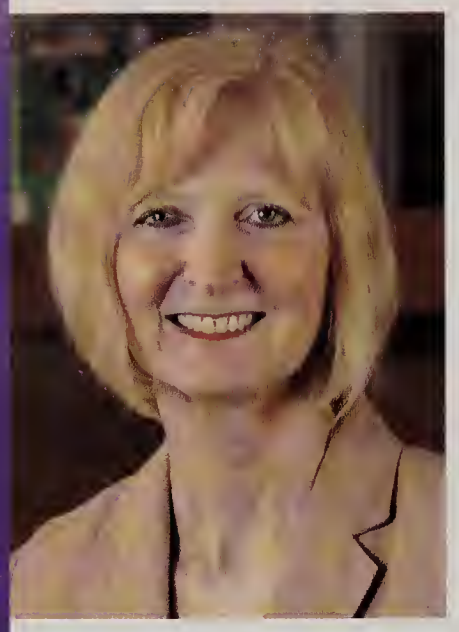
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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,

Our campus community and college district continually express remarkable support for innovations in student learning, resource development, and sustainable business practices, all of which have contributed greatly to the success of our institution in the last fiscal year.

The following stories of people, partnerships, and pathways to success are what make us who we are: an institution that for 113 years has provided affordable, accessible, and quality learning experiences to our District 525 residents.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Connections magazine, which includes our Annual Report and as always, we thank you for your commitment and support of Joliet Junior College.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni, and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations, and Resource Development.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

At JJC, we are continually thinking of ways to improve student success and completion. The alumni office is no different. Recently, the alumni board took on a project to make sure we do our part in this endeavor. When the college was updating the master plan, we requested support in creating an Alumni Wall on campus. What better way to encourage and empower our students to achieve success and completion than to show them individuals that have gone through what they are going through. We believe this will help our students *connect the dots* in their own educational journey, which happens to be the theme of this issue of *Connections*.

The Alumni Wall features a looping video of alumni success stories. It is instrumental in educating our students about the importance of becoming an alumnus and completing a degree or certificate at JJC. We continue to add alumni from all career fields to this wall to show our students the types of success they can achieve. Another important element to the wall is a display case containing memorabilia from the college's past. Ultimately, we want our students to realize graduating from JJC is significant, and provides an important step in their success. The wall is located between A- and C- Buildings on Main Campus.

I am sharing this exciting news with you in hopes that you will share alumni success stories with me! If you or someone you know would be a perfect addition to the Alumni Wall, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at alumni@jjc.edu or 815-280-2218.

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager





Providing Necessary Services for Students and the Community

Q&A with Stephanie Braun, Director of Academic Intervention and Accommodation Services

Academic Intervention and Accommodation Services encompasses a great deal of capabilities, offering a variety of testing and tutoring services, from placement testing to makeup testing, WorkKeys assessments to Prometric testing. The additional services of online and in-person tutoring for test preparation, JJC courses, and study aids make it a one-stop-shop that supports students throughout their time at JJC.

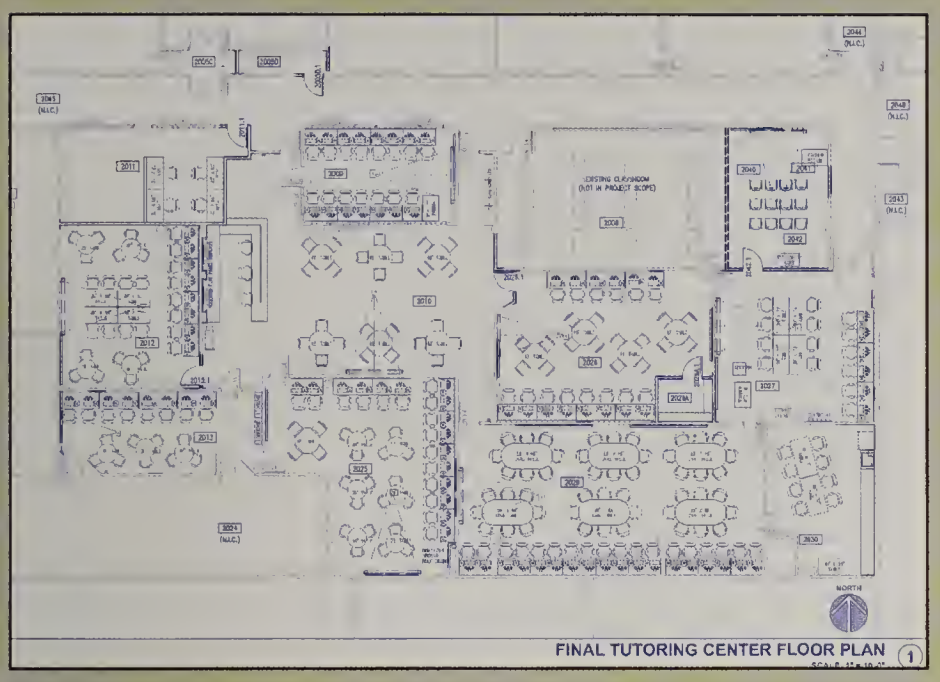
In the coming months, the Tutoring and Learning Center will move to a renovated site in C-Building on Main Campus, bringing many services into one area designed to make tutoring more accessible. To learn more about the move, and the work this dynamic department does, we sat down with Stephanie Braun, Director of Academic Intervention and Accommodation Services.

JJC: What happens in Academic Intervention and Accommodation Services?
Stephanie Braun: The two primary functions are testing and tutoring. At one time, there were two separate testing centers on campus. The Academic Skills Center handled COMPASS testing, makeup testing and CLEP testing, while iCampus managed all the online, blended testing, as well as computerized testing for community members.

When the Campus Center opened a few years ago, these areas merged into one space, and the following fiscal year the departments were combined into one. Since then, we've expanded even more. When I started five years ago, the Academic Skills Center administered about 10,000 exams each year. Last year, we administered more than 40,000 exams, due to combining departments and taking on new testing capabilities. We've built a reputation for working really well with faculty and staff, not to mention the community. A great example of this collaboration would be the addition of Prometric Testing. This allows us to offer Automotive Service Excellence Testing, so automotive students can earn their certifications, and community residents can, too. For that particular test, we have people who come to us from Chicago and all over the suburbs, because we're able to offer convenient hours to anyone who needs to complete that certification.

Last October, the nursing and allied health department transferred ATI testing over to the Academic Skills Center, so all hopeful nursing, radiologic technology and veterinary medical technology students will complete their TEAS testing or their LPN-STEP testing here. Those are just a few examples of the variety of people we serve.

In February, we became an official Pearson VUE GED testing site. To my knowledge, the JJC Academic Skills Center the only GED testing site in Will County. The test itself has been around since 1942, and was always paper-based until January 2014, when the test was reformatted to be computer-based. This formatting change led the Will County Regional Office of Education to seek out a testing site with the capacity to provide this testing. The JJC Academic Skills Center was a natural fit, with its computerized testing spaces. Another test we recently began offering is Emergency Medical Services testing; this is another great example of a paper-based test reformatted to a computer-based platform. This particular testing opportunity was brought to the attention of the



Academic Skills Center by a JJC faculty member who wanted to provide a convenient testing location for her students.

On our website, there is a menu of tests available. We service both JJC students and community members who need those types of tests. We'll be opening a testing site at the Romeoville Campus shortly, where we hope to provide ACT COMPASS, makeup, iCampus, Prometric, Innovative Exams and ATI testing. We hope that site will open in the fall; I anticipate with this addition, testing numbers and services will continue to grow.

JJC: What about the Tutoring and Learning Center?
SB: We've seen a lot of growth in tutoring. Five years ago, we provided roughly 1,000 tutoring sessions per year. Last year, we held more than 12,000 tutoring sessions. We've been growing exponentially, and we work closely with City Center to provide GED tutoring there. We're a larger operation than a lot of people realize.

We are growing all the time, and we have a fantastic staff to accomplish it all. We work closely together and we embrace change. My staff is not afraid to try new things, nor are they shy about providing feedback. As we introduce new offerings, I want to know what the staff thinks about it. We have lots of conversations that help us stay flexible to meet the needs. This constant evaluation of services has allowed the Tutoring and Learning Center to grow into the large operation you see today.

JJC: What tutoring areas are being combined?
SB: A lot of different tutoring "pockets" located throughout campus will now be coming under one roof. We have eight different tutoring centers. Five of them are open to all students, and three are devoted to a specific student group. The three departments that target specific student populations include the Nursing Skills Lab, Project Achieve, and StAR (Student Accommodations and Resources.) These departments are not part of the merge. The areas that serve anyone who is taking a class at JJC – Academic Skills, Math Learning Center, Speaking Center, Writing and Reading Center, and the LEAP (Learning English for Academic Purposes) Center will all be in one central location.

The space for the new Tutoring and Learning Center is in C-Building, where the nursing program was located prior to the opening of the Health Professions Center. It's an area with smaller rooms feeding off of a large main area like spokes on a wheel, making it perfect for a tutoring center. Students will walk in to the main area and be greeted, and we'll have a waiting area where students can check out laptops, hold study groups, or just wait for their tutor. We'll have a language lab, a writing and reading center and tutoring space, a dedicated area for computer science tutoring, the math learning center, a break room for the tutors, a natural sciences tutoring area complete with biology models and a speaking center. In addition to being able to prepare students for their speeches, the speaking center will allow students to record themselves. If they're taking an online speech class, they'll use this dedicated space to give their "live" speeches.

We've been working with facilities, IT and media and they think all the construction will be done in March, and all the installation will be done in April or May. Our plan is to physically move the centers into their new spaces during the week between the end of spring semester and the start of summer. That way we don't disrupt services, and the students won't be negatively impacted by the move.

JJC: What does the expanded space mean for JJC students?
SB: When you look at our numbers – 12,000 tutoring sessions in a year – it sounds like it's booming, but the truth is we can do more. In the Writing and Reading center, they have been keeping track of the number of students who are turned away to help make a case to bring in more tutoring. With a lot of our centers, the only limitation is that we just need more tutoring. If we had another tutor, they'd be booked, so we're thrilled to be able to expand the space and help more students succeed.

Now, when you try to find a tutor, it's kind of like a scavenger hunt. Let's say you come in and you're waiting for your math tutor, but you also know you could use a hand with biology. If that tutor is available while you're waiting, why not go see him or her? I think we'll have a lot of referral traffic because all these areas are coming together.

JJC: Can you tell us a little bit about how you approach your work, and what it means to our students?
SB: I tell my staff that we have to have excellent customer service skills, because it's very likely we're the first impression a student has of JJC. They apply online, they come in and they meet us when they take placement tests. We're an impactful touch point from the first visit. We offer placement testing, and if a student doesn't do well we offer free tutoring to assist them with placement testing. In fact, we have more help available in the area of placement testing preparation than any other school in a five-state radius. I've been invited by COMPASS to speak at regional and national conferences, just to address that.

I really like to keep my finger on the pulse of what students, staff and faculty tell me we need in terms of testing. That end of our offerings is always evolving, so we can serve the community in the best way possible. When it comes to tutoring, it's always my goal to have our tutors work themselves out of a job. The idea is not to give answers, but help students discover the answers for themselves. We are College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) certified. CRLA encourages tutoring sites to promote student independence and teach students how to troubleshoot while approaching problems constructively. The best measure of success I can think of is when students are not dependent on tutors, but rather can learn from tutors and be successful in future classes, here and at their transfer institutions.



CONNECTING THE DOTS

Pathways to Success

Higher education. It's as much about the journey as it is the destination. The path you follow is as meaningful – and for many, even moreso – than the degree earned at the end. Relationships are established, minds are opened and challenged, and life-long friendships are forged.

Along the journey, JJC provides an array of services – touch points at which a student has an opportunity to get information, help or advice that can help him or her along the way toward reaching goals. Not every student will experience these touch points in this exact order, but this is an idea of how Joliet Junior College provides experience that reaches beyond the classroom.

Academic Skills Center

Often a student's first impression of JJC – the first "dot," so to speak – is from a visit to the Academic Skills Center for the ACT COMPASS test. According to COMPASS, this test "provides measures of key skills useful for placing students into standard courses in the areas of writing, reading, and mathematics, and if needed, into English as a Second Language courses." COMPASS tests mathematics, reading and writing. The tests are designed to help JJC place students into the level of coursework that allows them to excel.

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation is an important step toward success at JJC. It connects students to others who are just starting out, and propels them forward with the information they need. It's an opportunity to learn about programs, services and resources available to students, and it's a time for students to find out about registration and the payment process. Often, it's the first time a new student will meet with a counselor or advisor, during which students will develop their first semester schedule and get registered for classes.

No matter what a students educational goals are, New Student Orientation is where it all begins.

Financial Aid



Once a student applies to JJC, he or she is ready to connect the important dot of paying for college. Students can apply for Financial Aid by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which most people simply call the "FAFSA." (Students will need to fill out a FAFSA every year they attend school if they want to receive financial aid.)

"Financial aid" is a blanket term that includes all funding designed to help students pay for their college-related expenses. Loans, grants and scholarships are all types of financial aid, and receiving any of it begins with filling out the FAFSA. Joliet Junior College has tools and programs to help students understand their options when it comes to paying for college. Each spring, the college sponsors workshops on filling out the FAFSA and applying for scholarships.

Scholarships



Achievements both in and outside the classroom can mean money for education! Scholarships are established by donors, and students receive them for a variety of reasons, from academic standing, special talent, background, financial need and more. They are awarded in the fall for use during the coming school year. Applying for scholarships is a "dot" that connects students with donors, and with JJC on a different level.

Scholarships are a great help in offsetting the cost of attending college.Students are encouraged to apply for all the scholarships they meet the requirements for, and with luck they will receive some help paying for school. Scholarships are available whether you are just starting out at JJC, or nearing graduation.

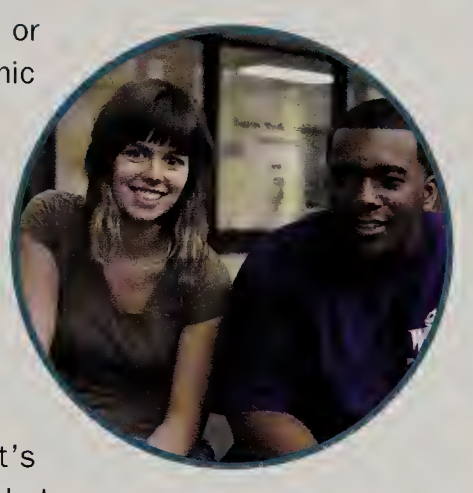
Tutoring and Learning Center



The Tutoring and Learning Center offers a variety of learning assistance options. Students will find content-area as well as technology tutoring, and community members as well as students can benefit from test preparation. Every student benefits from a little help now and then, and visiting the Tutoring and Learning Center can help complete the picture.

The Tutoring and Learning Center offers assistance in literally every subject from Accounting to Zoology, and everything in between, making JJC a place where students can truly find support when they need it most.

Multicultural Student Affairs



The Office of Multicultural Affairs, or OMSA, provides outreach, academic guidance, personal support, cultural resources and leadership opportunities to enhance the educational experience of underrepresented students. The office supports diversity initiatives to enhance the college community in creating a diverse, culturally inclusive environment. It's an interesting and important dot that connects students with one another.

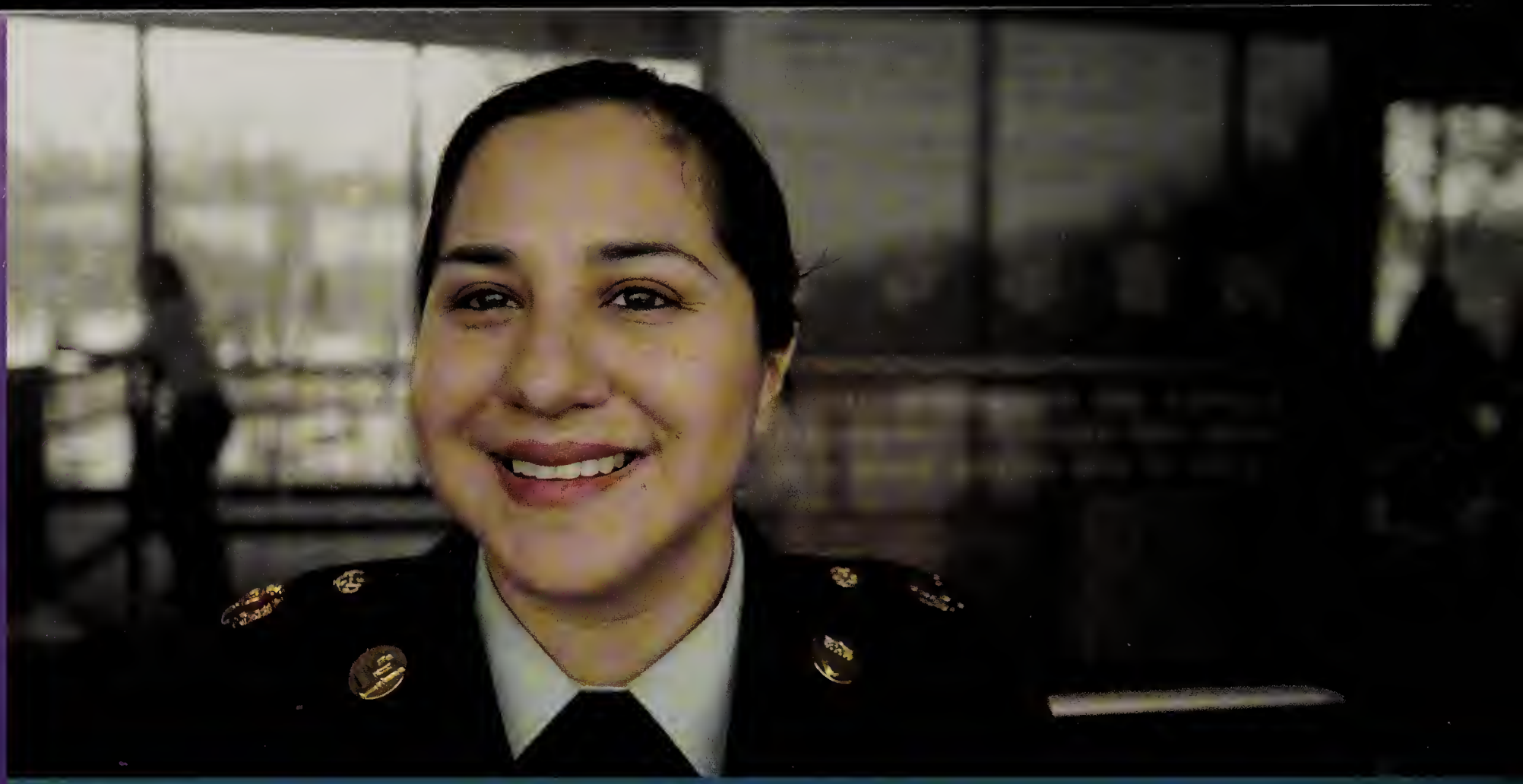
Through OMSA, students benefit from advocacy and personal support, transfer help, mentoring programs, cultural activities, multicultural resources, leadership development programs, field trips and more. The office also sponsors on-campus educational activities, including events during Black History Month and Hispanic American Heritage Month.

Student Government

Student Government at JJC is made up of elected student representatives and officers. If "leadership" is a dot a student would like to connect, this is where it happens! Student Government works to represent the opinions, rights and interests of the student population. Additionally, Student Government serves as the voice of JJC students with other students, faculty, staff, administration and the Board of Trustees.



The group sets goals, and plans events and activities around meeting them. Their goals for the current school year are in the areas of community outreach, sustainability and the campus climate. Activities include bringing in a dunk tank during welcome week, which raised money for Morningstar Mission in Joliet; developing a series of posters on sustainability to be displayed on campus; and working with Phi Theta Kappa on Spirit Week, designed to promote "Commit to Complete," with the goal of encouraging students to finish their programs and graduate. These are just a few of the initiatives Student Government is working on.



U.S. Army Veteran Susan Torres has a long history as a JJC student, employee and alumni. She is currently serving as secretary of the JJC Alumni Board of Directors.

Veterans Office

JJC's Veterans Office is here to introduce veterans and their families to the educational opportunities Joliet Junior College provides, as well as the services available to assist in reaching goals. The Veterans Office helps connect the dots of a veteran's experience with his or her goals. As a proud member of the Servicemembers Opportunity College, JJC is part of an organization that provides educational opportunities those who have served, or are serving, in the armed forces.

Veteran students can participate in free College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) Testing, which offers students the opportunity to exhibit proficiency in a subject area and potentially earn college credit by completing one of more of 34 CLEP exams. CLEP provides eligible veterans the ability to have CLEP testing fees waived. Veteran students can also benefit from college credit for military training. Those students who completed specific training or classes while in the military that are the equivalent of college credit may request an official military transcript be sent to the JJC Credentials Office. This transcript can be evaluated, and any applicable credit awarded.

International Students



With nearly 200 degree and certificate programs and a ranking among the top 100 U.S. institutions that grant associate degrees, JJC is uniquely poised to attract international students. Students from outside the U.S. see the value of community colleges because of the small class sizes, cost effective tuition rates, and the potential to continue on after graduation and earn a bachelor's degree at a four-year school. Local students benefit from the influence of international students because all students – no matter where they call "home" – learn from each other. Worldviews are expanded and relationships are built that go beyond geographic borders. In a way, we're connecting the dots to create a global picture.

Strong academic programs and quality faculty make JJC a wise alternative for any student, anywhere in the world.

Transfer Planning



The transfer department assists students in creating a plan they can follow to help them succeed at JJC and beyond. This is where we really begin to connect the dots, between schools and goals. Transfer personnel work with students as early as possible in their time at JJC, so they can plan an associate degree program that will allow them to enter their chosen four-year institution with all the credits they've earned. Roughly half of all credit students at JJC apply with the intent to transfer.

The transfer department provides Transfer Advising Information Sessions, Transfer Fairs, "On-the-Spot" Admission days and much more. Staff also brings college and university recruiters onto campus throughout the semester to meet with students and share information.



Career Services

Career Services works to enhance student success by providing comprehensive career and employment services. Through the Career Services department, all students and alumni can receive the resources necessary for a lifetime of learning and career development. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are developed to help students explore various career, experiential, and employment opportunities. Career Services works hand-in-hand with the JJC academic mission and strongly supports the JJC Core Values.

Services included career counseling and exploration, internship and job search assistance, interviewing help, job fairs, employer resources and more. Because a key element in finding a career where you are successful and fulfilled starts with knowing where your interests lie, career exploration is where many students begin. They can then connect the dots between career goals and programs of study.

Alumni



After graduation, there's one final dot that completes the picture: becoming an active member of the JJC Alumni. JJC Alumni Relations builds loyalty and support for Joliet Junior College among its graduates and former students whose careers are contributing to community business, professional, agricultural, industrial, science and health fields. Within Alumni Relations, people have the opportunity to connect with alumni, students, faculty, staff, administration, Board of Trustees, Foundation Board and the Joliet Junior College Community.

The office assists with fundraising activities that advance the programs of JJC and enhance the scholarships and grants available for qualified students, faculty and staff at the College.



Ramesey Mallory ('90) achieved his goal of becoming an attorney.

JJC is a True Original

As the first public community college in the nation, we have a long history of finding a need, and filling it. That's what "connecting the dots" is all about: finding what students need, and helping them get it, so they can move on to the next dot ... and the next ... and the next, until they've completed their personal "picture" and have found themselves in successful, fulfilling careers.

For more information about all our programs and services, visit jjc.edu.

CULINARY ARTS DEPARTMENT

BRINGS HOME THE GOLD



JJC's gold medal team from the State of Illinois Championship.

JJC Culinary Students Bring Home Another Gold

In early February, the JJC Culinary Arts Program competed in the 2014 State of Illinois Championship. Knowing they would face Illinois schools who wanted to prove themselves against the culinary champs, JJC entered the competition poised to bring home another gold.

And that's exactly what they did. After months of preparation, countless hours of practice and a full day of competition, the JJC hot foods team brought home first place and the gold medal; they are now the 2014 State of Illinois Champions!

Student team members were captain Laci Lanclos, Marek Lubecki, Bryan Prado, Ryan Reigh and Tiara Salazar. Team apprentices were Juanita Marshall and Diamond Taylor, and coaches were Chef Paul Bringas and Chef Mark Muszynski.

It's worth noting that the cost of a JJC culinary education is nearly 1/10 the cost of some of our competitors, and yet our students continue to prove themselves worthy of accolades. Congratulations to the team!



Team U.S., including Andy Chlebana, third from the left.

Chef Chlebana and Team Win International Gold

Winning international competitions comes naturally to JJC Culinary Instructor Andy Chlebana, but each success comes only after a great deal of practice, hard work, time commitment and sacrifice. It was no different last November, when Chef Chlebana competed as part of the American Culinary Federation's team, representing the U.S. in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the first-ever Dubai World Hospitality Championship. The team brought home one gold medal, and second place overall. They received the gold medal by scoring in the 100-90 point range, and took second place because first-place winner Singapore earned a mere two additional points.

Chlebana was one of seven chefs on the team, which included representatives from Le Cordon Bleu North America, and Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Chicago, among others. The competition was intense, as teams were required to produce a pastry and cuisine buffet in 40 hours and 55 portions of the hot-food main course in three-and-a-half hours.

The competition was so consuming that it left little time to experience the culture of Dubai, but Chlebana said he enjoyed what he did get to see.

"The people of Dubai are very accommodating, friendly and eager to help," he said. "It was a pleasure to work with them and get to experience their culture."



Students in the Culinary Arts program are encouraged to complete Certificates of Completion along the way to earning their degrees.

Culinary Arts Department Commits to Complete

Achieving milestones along the way to a larger goal is one way to stay motivated during the journey, and the culinary department encourages students to do just that. "We do degree audits with students," says Michael McGreal, Culinary Arts Department Chair. "We have our advisors run a degree audit on every second-year student in each of their lab classes. Typically, a Certificate of Completion is achieved after the first year of degree coursework is finished. Once we determine a student has completed the requirements, we recommend they apply for graduation with the Certificate of Completion." McGreal says that in the past decade, roughly one student each year will take it upon him or herself to apply for and graduate with a Certificate of Completion. "This past year," he says, "I believe we have 60 who graduated with a COC, simply because we ran our own audit."

People Then and Now





Rita Sova

THEN

Rita Sova began teaching in the nursing department in 1976. Joliet Junior College had already built a reputation for being dynamic and creative in every department, which made Rita proud to be a part a faculty member. Due to the popularity of the nursing program, there was always a waiting list to get join the program. It was known that the curriculum was consistently undergoing change in order to remain on the cutting edge of nursing practices. In the 26 years Rita taught in the Nursing Department, she was also a member of numerous committees, and in addition, she counseled students. She was always impressed with the dedication students had to become nurses. Rita served for four years as chairperson of the department, and she taught three levels of the four in the department. She recalls her 26 years flying by until she retired in August 2002.

NOW

After retiring in 2002, Rita says her life has slowed down appreciably. She now has time for travel, gardening, reading and spending time with her family. A true world traveler, she has been to England, Canada, Germany, China, Alaska and some of the United States National Parks. Rita also enjoys spending time with an investment club and a book club. But her favorite thing to do by far is spend time with her family, with special attention paid to her grandchildren whose ages range from six to 26. Rita says her grandchildren bring her a special joy, with their combination of intelligence and humor.

John Stobart

THEN



John Stobart began teaching English in both high school and junior college in 1961. When Joliet Junior College moved from Central High School to its present location, he became a full-time English instructor. John retired in 1999 after 38 years at JJC. During that time, he established and taught the creative writing course out of which grew an underground publication, *The Subterranean Sideshow,* and later *Wordeater,* continues to be published today. At various times throughout his career, John also sponsored the Cinema Club, the Forensics Team, and the *Blazer.* In addition, he taught tennis classes and for a number of years coached both the men's and women's tennis teams. The year his women's team went to Nationals, John was elected to the JJC Coaches' Hall of Fame. For a few seasons, John belonged to the Joliet Drama Guild and had parts in *The Rainmaker, All the Way Home* and *The Dark of the Moon.* John belonged to the American Federation of Teachers throughout his career and for five years served as President of the JJC local.

NOW



At the age of 63, with an MA+45 hours, John became a full-time student at JJC and enjoyed classes in philosophy, children's literature, voice and acting, among others. He also played No. three singles and No. two doubles for the JJC tennis team. In 2007, he received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award by the Alumni Association, and in 2012 John was proud to be a part of the 40th anniversary celebration of *Wordeater.* John and his wife of 57 years, Sharon, have three daughters, all of whom attended JJC, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Recently John started judging the current *Wordeater* selections for annual awards and established the Loudmouth McCracken *Wordeater* Scholarship to provide financial helps for potential JJC creativity. Donations can be made annually to the scholarship thought the JJC Foundation.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Connecting the financial dots of another year dedicated to our community.



Vision

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for post-secondary education.

Mission

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

Financial Highlights

The financial highlights of the district are as follows:

- The District's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net position increased 3.3% over the course of the year and new construction in the District increased property tax revenue by 5.8% in fiscal 2013.
- Overall revenues were $138.7 million, $3.6 million more than expenses of which $1.9 million of this increase is unrestricted.
- Total costs increased by approximately 6.4% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, the on-behalf pension contribution from the State of Illinois, depreciation and interest expenses.
- Net tuition revenue decreased by 0.4%. This was due to a decrease in credit hours generated partially offset by 3.7% increase in the tuition and fee rate.

JJC by the Numbers

31,301
The number of students enrolled in credit courses in 2013, representing an increase of more than 15 percent since 2008.

20%
The increase in degrees or certificates awarded since 2009.

Nearly $800,000
The amount of scholarship dollars students receive annually through the generous support of the JJC Foundation.

Top 100
JJC's ranking by Community College Week for number of associate degrees granted.

11
The number of consecutive years JJC has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2013	2012	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$98.4	$92.0	$6.4	7.0%
Capital Assest, Net	174.2	162.9	11.3	6.9%
Non-current Assest	36.9	53.9	(17.0)	-31.5%
Total Assets	309.5	308.8	0.7	0.2%
Current Liabilities	29.9	38.4	(8.5)	-22.1%
Long-Term Liabilities	165.7	160.1	5.6	3.5%
Total Liabilities	195.6	198.5	(2.9)	-1.5%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	42.7	44.0	(1.3)	-3.0%
Restricted	29.9	26.9	3.0	11.2%
Unrestricted	41.3	39.4	1.9	4.8%
Total Net Assets	**$113.9**	**$110.3**	**$3.6**	**3.3%**

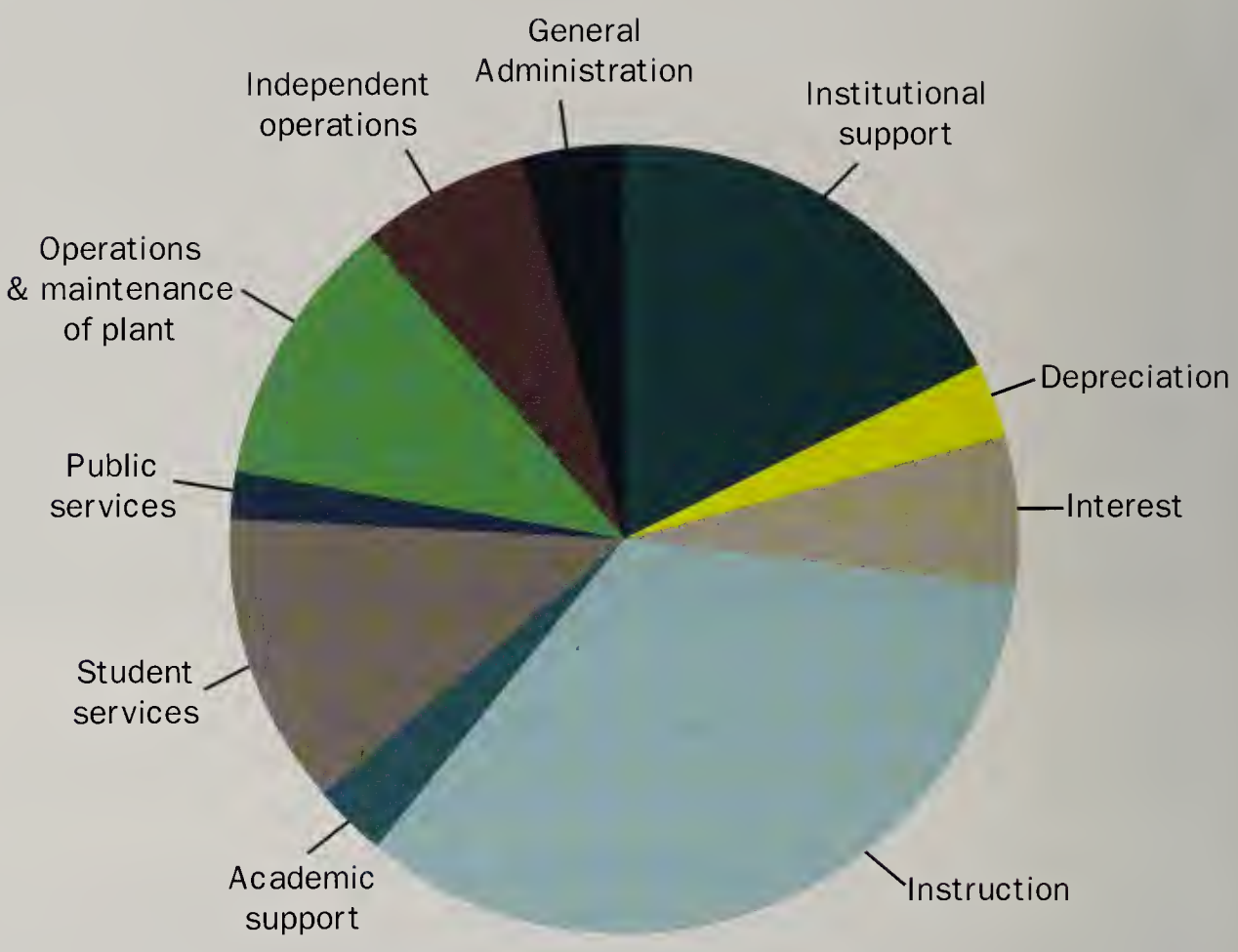
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $119.8 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services, which were $62 million or 52 percent of total expenses.

	2013	2012	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$41.2	$41.5	$(0.3)	-0.7%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(14.3)	(14.5)	(0.2)	-1.4%
Net Tuition & Fees	26.9	27.0	(0.1)	-0.4%
Sales & Service Fees	9.3	9.0	0.3	-3.3%
Miscellaneous	1.8	1.4	0.4	-28.6%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	51.1	48.3	2.8	5.8%
State & Federal Sources	47.7	46.0	1.7	3.7%
Other	1.9	2.6	(0.7)	-26.9%
Total Revenues	**$138.7**	**$134.3**	**$4.4**	**3.3%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	44.1	43.3	0.8	1.8%
Academic Support	3.5	3.4	0.1	2.9%
Student Services	13.7	15.2	(1.5)	-9.9%
Public Services	1.7	2.3	(0.6)	-26.1%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	13.8	14.1	(0.3)	-2.1%
Independent Operations	9.5	9.6	(0.1)	-1.0%
General Administration	4.7	4.6	0.1	2.2%
Institutional Support	27.5	22.5	5.0	22.2%
Depreciation	6.5	4.1	2.4	58.5%
Interest	10.1	7.9	2.2	27.8%
Total Expenses	**$135.1**	**$127.0**	**$8.1**	**6.4%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$110.3**	**$103.0**		
End of Year	**$113.9**	**$110.3**		
Increase in Net Assets	**$3.6**	**$7.3**	**$(3.7)**	

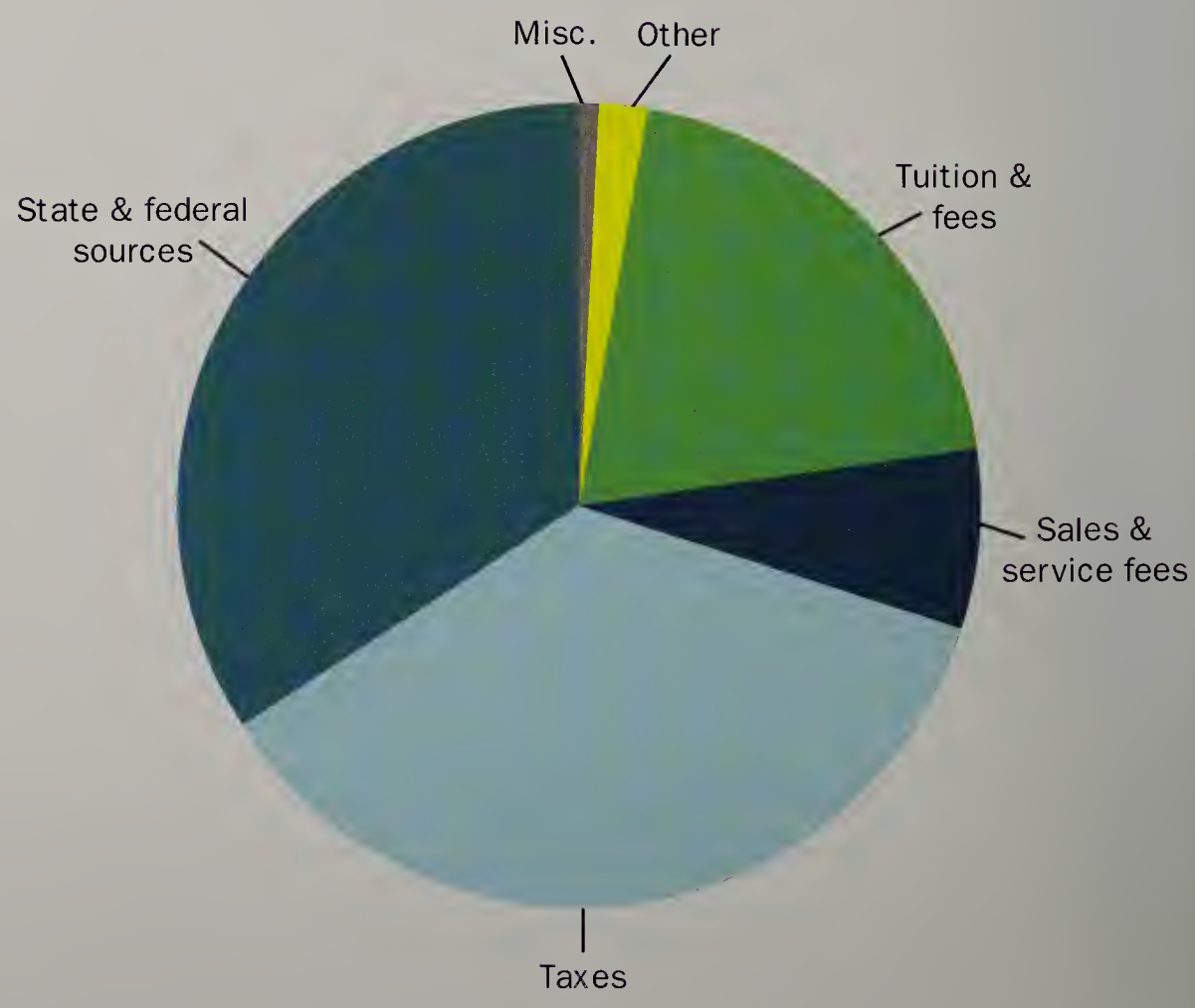
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013

Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**10%**
Independent Operations	**7%**
General Administration	**4%**
Institutional Support	**20%**
Depreciation	**5%**
Interest	**7%**
Instruction	**33%**
Academic Support	**3%**
Student Services	**10%**
Public Services	**1%**



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2013

Taxes	**37%**
Miscellaneous	**1%**
Other	**3%**
Tuition and Fees	**20%**
Sales and Service Fees	**7%**
State and Federal Sources	**37%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Tom Osterberger

Foundation President

As the President of the JJC Foundation, I am pleased to report another successful year of financial support to the college. The donations raised by the JJC Foundation support annual and endowed scholarships, programs, equipment and services that enable the college to be an outstanding educational resource to the community.

During the current academic year, the JJC Foundation awarded scholarships to more than 450 students, totaling $799,000. Each high school senior on the winning Mathletes team received a $2,000 scholarship award to attend JJC. Foundation merit scholarships were presented to outstanding seniors at all 29 feeder high schools in District 525. Grants totaling $60,000 through our *Awards for Excellence* program supported JJC faculty by providing financial support for innovative educational programs and necessary technical equipment to run those programs.

All 28 Foundation Directors provide financial assistance that supports the teaching, research, and public service functions of JJC. Please join me and my fellow board members in supporting Joliet Junior College and the students that are served.

Sincerely,

Tom Osterberger
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2013 and 2012]

	2013	2012
Total Current Assets	17,089,468	$15,848,178
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,000
Total Assets	17,849,468	16,608,178
Total Current Liabilities	24,115	17,995
Total Net Assets	17,825,353	16,590,183
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	17,849,468	16,608,178

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2013 and 2012]

	2013	2012
Total Revenues	2,439,613	$601,918
Total Expenses	1,204,443	1,131,579
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	16,590,183	17,119,844
End of Fiscal Year	17,825,353	16,590,183
Endowment	10,564,392	10,421,378
Investments	16,866,409	15,491,974
Annual Contributions	1,035,013	1,213,597
Scholarships Awarded	799,070	694,965

Thank You To Our Donors

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The World at Your Fingertips



Austria is just one of the options available to students who choose to participate in the Study Abroad program.

In our last issue, *Connections* drew readers closer to our Study Abroad program, with information on all the options students have for spending a semester or summer learning in another country. Now, we'll take look up close at the student experience, and learn more about the value of an overseas education.



Former student Mallory DeSalvo spent a semester in China prior to transferring to NIU to continue her education.

Spending a semester overseas is an opportunity to get to know another culture and explore the world, as former student Mallory DeSalvo discovered during her semester abroad. But it's also a way to grow personally, learning to trust yourself and stretch your self-imposed boundaries. "I think studying abroad in China gave me a lot of confidence and wisdom to be on my own and know myself, so that I could meet some awesome people," DeSalvo said. "It gave me a chance to feel a little more worldly, and to know what was going on in other parts of the world."

And thatís exactly what the goal of JJC's study abroad program is - to help students gain confidence, independence, a newfound knowledge of a different culture, and the ability to act responsibly as a global citizen.

DeSalvo still keeps in contact with the friends she made while she was in China. She now attends Northern Illinois University, and is continuing her anthropology studies.

According to JJC Coordinator of International Education Tamara Brattoli, approximately 10-12 JJC students study abroad each year. Students currently have the opportunity to travel to Austria, Ireland, England, China, Japan, France, Costa Rica, and Spain. This list is always growing, because the study abroad program is expanding every year.

"There are a couple of reasons studying abroad is great for students - one is that with the globalization that we have right now, students learn practical skills like how to work with people who come from different cultures and backgrounds," Brattoli said. "Language skills are another. The federal government is pushing a lot for students to learn more languages."

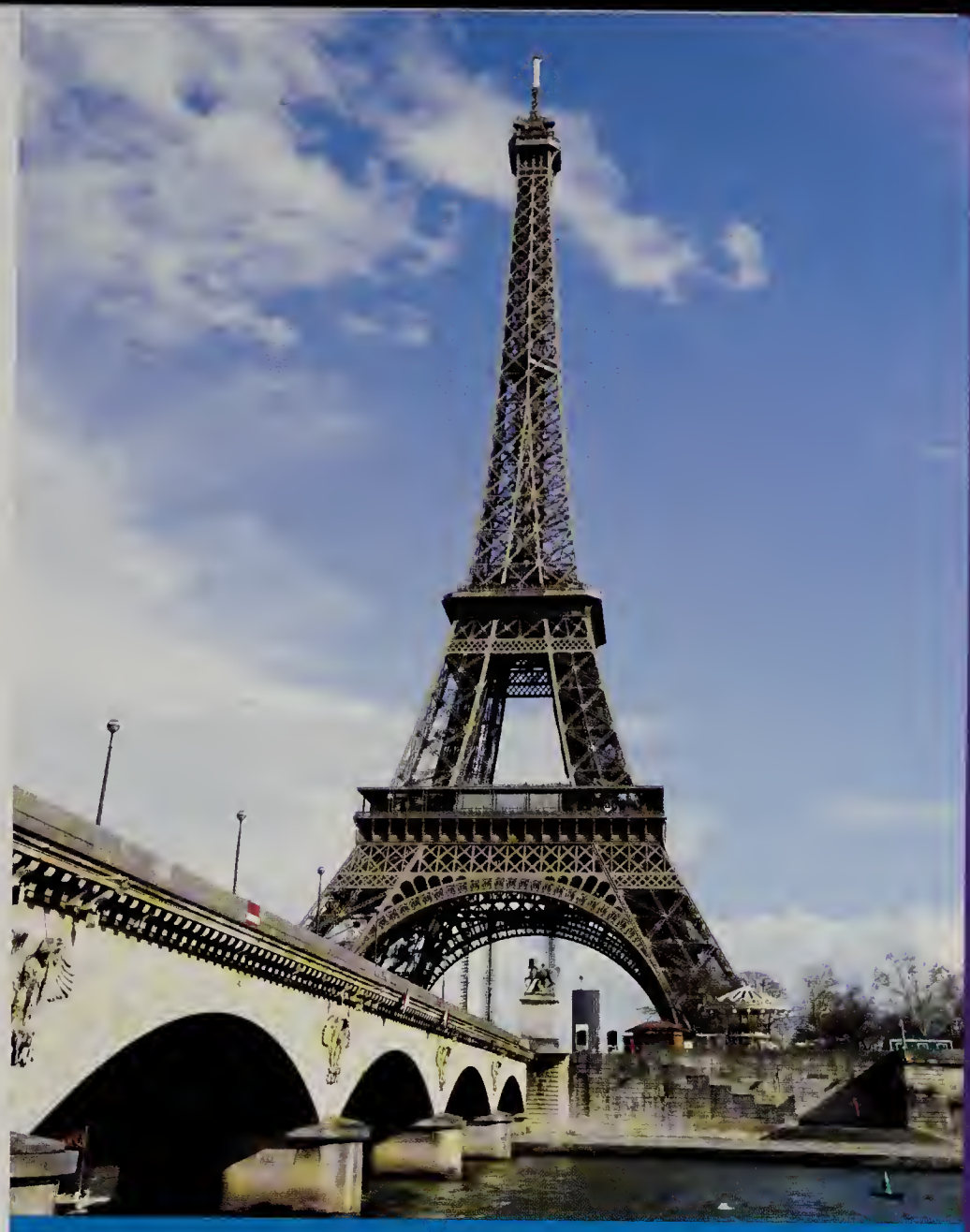
JJC is a part of the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP), which makes it possible for JJC students to travel abroad with other Illinois area students and faculty members.

One of those trips is an annual summer trip to Japan. This year, students and faculty will go from May 17 to June 7, at the low cost of $3,425 per person.

Brattoli said studying abroad is inexpensive compared to a vacationer's price. And students get to be so much more than a tourist when they study abroad - they get to be a part of the culture.

Not only do these study abroad opportunities provide life-changing experiences for students to travel the world, they are part of a larger mission at JJC. President Debra Daniels has made it a goal for the college to become a world-class institution, and expanding and broadening international study opportunities is one of the ways the college is pursing that goal.

"We live in a global society today, and an understanding of different cultures is essential to a college education," Daniels said.



Students can choose to spend a semester in France, thanks to our participation in the Illinois Consortium for Intranational Studies and Programs.

JJC Brings the World to You

Thoughts of world travel can offer the inspiration to learn another language, and JJC offers a wide range of possibilities. We offer courses in Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and more, depending on the semester. These courses not only teach the language itself, but also an understanding of the cultures of the specific target language.

It's worth noting that Career Builder recommends language study for working professionals, too. "Studying a language isn't just for undergraduates," the popular job research website says. "Evening or weekend language courses are a great place to learn another language if you're already in the professional sector."

Knowing another language might elevate you in the eyes of a potential or current employer, and can open your mind to new ideas and cultures. The English and World Languages department at JJC helps prepare students to be good communicators, and that's an asset no matter what career path you choose. Whatever your ultimate goal, expanding your language skills can help you on your way to a career in virtually any industry.

INTO THE ARCHIVES

The Acts of the Post-Grads:
Early Student Organizations at JJC

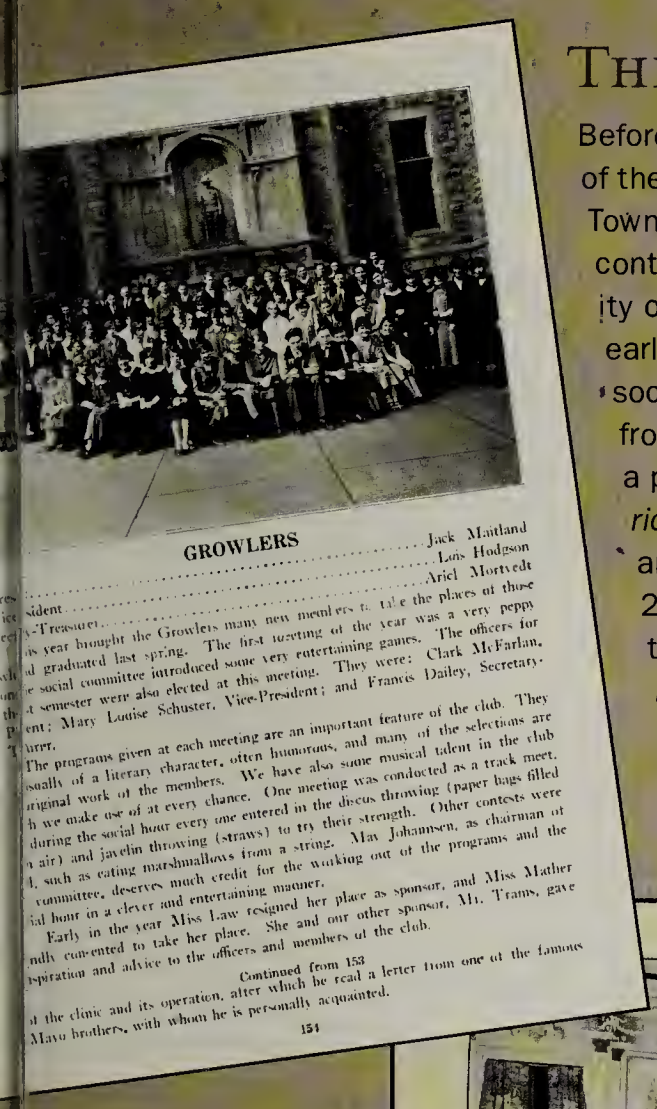


With more than 50 student clubs and organizations, it's hard to imagine a time when JJC students didn't have opportunities for involvement. Even in the beginning, the first group of students to in the newly formed two-year extended course of study at Joliet Township High School (out of which JJC would be formed) found a way to establish themselves as unique, even while still attending classes high school building. As J. Stanley Brown said in an article published in 1904, "Community life ought to center about the school and all members should soon come to learn that the school means more than simply a place to study books and recite lessons."

Looking at the early years of a developing student body, we see clubs, organizations and general social activities growing out of basic human needs: the need to interact with others, and to express oneself. In this light, students are much the same today as they were 113 years. In fact, some of the organizations that grew out of the seeds of an early JJC are still thriving today.

The Growlers

One of the earliest social clubs at JJC began in 1923. The Growlers was formed "For the purpose of bettering the social and intellectual life of the Junior College, and to create a sportsman-like attitude therein." Because the club welcomed current students and faculty, as well as their friends and family, the group was massive from the very beginning. Looking at the picture of the inaugural group, it's obvious that in 1923, Growlers membership outnumbered the enrollment at the college. Meeting attendees discussed literature and music, and talked about current events. They also held a "social hour" after each meeting. The Growlers put their mission into action during this time, with impromptu dancing and games. Documents describing the club convey, "every minute of the hour was planned for with games and entertainment." The Growlers also published literary works of college students, in the annuals and semi-monthly publications, a tradition that is still intact today. *Wordeater*, the student literary magazine, celebrates its forty-second year in 2014.



GROWLERS

.....Jack Maitland
.....Lois Hodgson
.....Ariel Mortvedt

sident .....
s-Treasurer .....

its year brought the Growlers many new members to take the places of those
d graduated last spring. The first meeting of the year was a very peppy
e social committee introduced some very entertaining games. The officers for
t semester were also elected at this meeting. They were: Clark McFarlan,
ent; Mary Louise Schuster, Vice-President; and Francis Dailey, Secretary-
urer.

The programs given at each meeting are an important feature of the club. They
sually of a literary character, often humorous, and many of the selections are
riginal work of the members. We have also some musical talent in the club
h we make use of at every chance. One meeting was conducted as a track meet,
during the social hour every one entered in the discus throwing (paper bags filled
n air) and javelin throwing (straws) to try their strength. Other contests were
l, such as eating marshmallows from a string. May Johannsen, as chairman of
committee, deserves much credit for the working out of the programs and the
cial hour in a clever and entertaining manner.

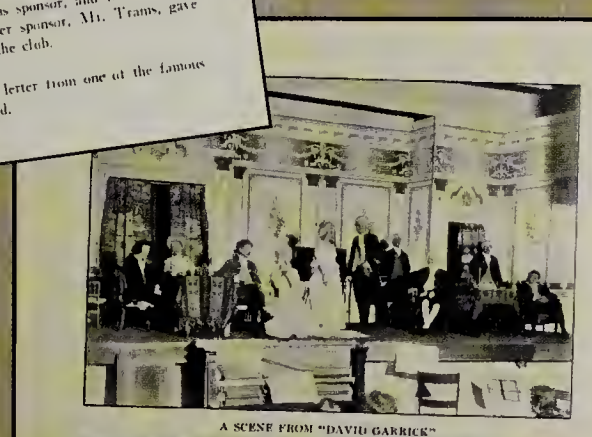
Early in the year Miss Law resigned her place as sponsor, and Miss Mather
ndly consented to take her place. She and our other sponsor, Mr. Trams, gave
spiration and advice to the officers and members of the club.

Continued from 153

t the clinic and its operation, after which he read a letter from one of the famous
Mayo brothers, with whom he is personally acquainted.

Theater

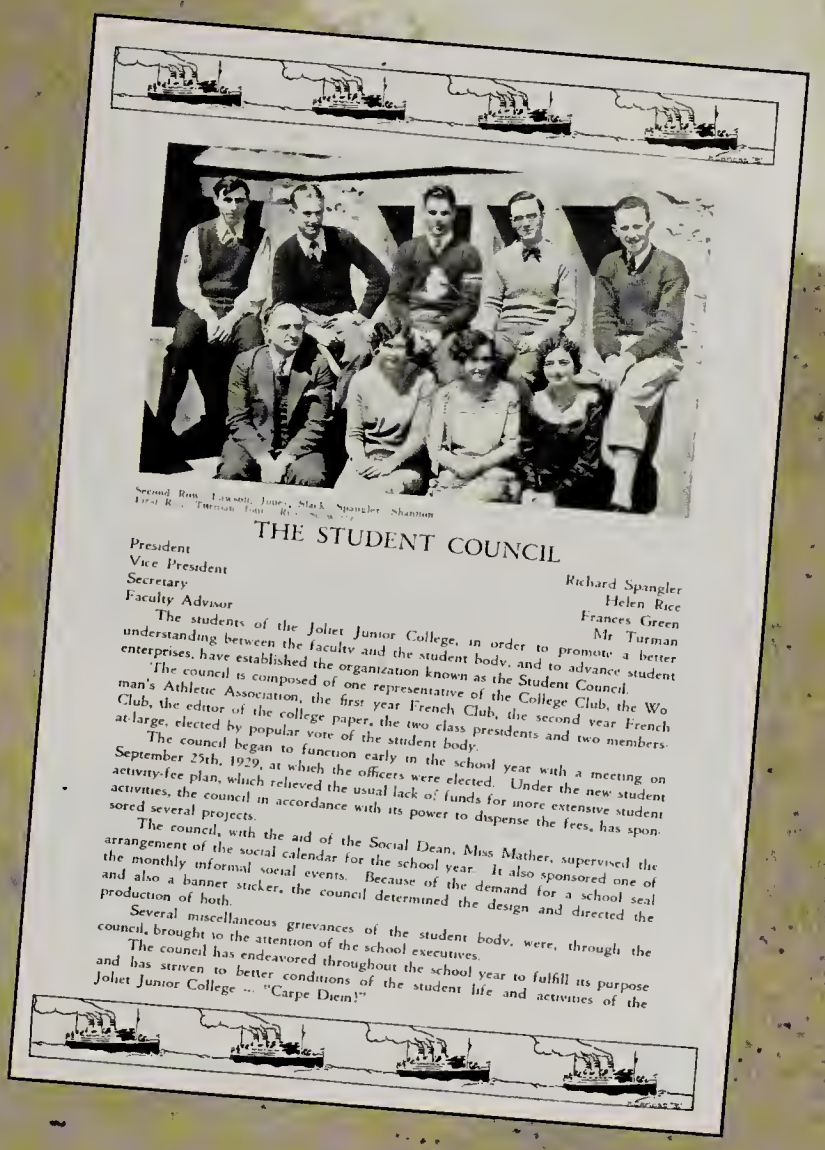
Before clubs, the first students of the "normal course" at Joliet Township High School would continue the high school activity of staging an annual play. As early as 1907, the Alumni Association (comprised of alumni from the high school) staged a production of *David Garrick*. A period piece revolving around the 19th and early 20th century British actor of the same name, *David Garrick* was staged in effort to raise money for a statue of Louis Joliet to be placed at the entrance of the high school. The plays throughout the early 1900s and into the Great Depression were staged as fundraisers for many different student and school causes. One continued cause was the Junior College Loan Fund, which helped students in need. According to Susan Wood, past JJC administrator and author of *The People's Legacy: A History of Joliet Junior College*, productions such as *The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance and Il Travatore* were produced as collaborations between musical and dramatic clubs in both the high school and the college, but always with the principal players being junior college students.



A SCENE FROM "DAVID GARRICK"



A SCENE FROM "DAVID GARRICK"



Second Row, Lawson, Jones, Slack, Spangler, Shannon
Third R... Turman, Fair, ...

THE STUDENT COUNCIL

President ..... Richard Spangler
Vice President ..... Helen Rice
Secretary ..... Frances Green
Faculty Advisor ..... Mr Turman

The students of the Joliet Junior College, in order to promote a better understanding between the faculty and the student body, and to advance student enterprises, have established the organization known as the Student Council.

The council is composed of one representative of the College Club, the Woman's Athletic Association, the first year French Club, the second year French Club, the editor of the college paper, the two class presidents and two members at large, elected by popular vote of the student body.

The council began to function early in the school year with a meeting on September 25th, 1929, at which the officers were elected. Under the new student activity-fee plan, which relieved the usual lack of funds for more extensive student activities, the council in accordance with its power to dispense the fees, has sponsored several projects.

The council, with the aid of the Social Dean, Miss Mather, supervised the arrangement of the social calendar for the school year. It also sponsored one of the monthly informal social events. Because of the demand for a school seal and also a banner sticker, the council determined the design and directed the production of both.

Several miscellaneous grievances of the student body, were, through the council, brought to the attention of the school executives.

The council has endeavored throughout the school year to fulfill its purpose and has striven to better conditions of the student life and activities of the Joliet Junior College ... "Carpe Diem!"

Student Council

Established on September 25, 1929, the JJC Student Council was created to "promote a better understanding between the faculty and student body, and to advance student enterprises." The Council was comprised of members from The College Club, Women's Athletic Association, first and second year French Clubs, the editor of the student newspaper (not yet called *The Blazer*), the two existing class presidents and two members-at-large, elected by popular vote from the student body. There first order of business was to disperse the newly created "student activity-fee plan" among the student groups. In addition to deciding how to allocate funds to student groups for their various events and activities, the council heard grievances from the student body, and created a new school seal and banner. History can be reassuring; even after 113 years, student leadership, and the issues on campus, haven't change all that much.

Around Campus

What's happening around JJC



A JJC student athlete reads to children at Eliza Kelly Elementary School as part of the Harvey Brooks Foundation.

Student Athletes Encourage Reading, Donate Books

Last December, athletes from Joliet Junior College read to local children and donated more than 1,000 books from an Athletic Department Book drive to three local organizations. Eliza Kelly Elementary School (as part of the Harvey Brooks Foundation), the Joliet Spanish Community Center's daycare, and the Heartman Recreational Center in Jolietall each received approximately 350 books from the drive.

Kerri O'Shea, JJC athletic retention specialist, said the children were excited to see the JJC student athletes in their uniforms and were happy to receive personal attention. JJC students enjoyed their time, reading to and talking with the children. O'Shea said they didn't want to leave.

"The important thing is that they set a positive example, and they made a big impact on children in our community," O'Shea said. "They sat down and had entertaining conversations with children in our community. They did a great job representing the Athletic Department, and JJC."

This isn't the first time JJC athletes have encouraged local children to read. In April 2013, the Athletic Department initiated a "Reading with the Wolves" campaign, and JJC baseball and softball players read to children at elementary schools.

"This year's bok drive allowed us to build off the program, and we are excited about future 'Reading with the Wolves' initiatives," O'Shea said, adding that the book drive and donation project would not have been possible without the encouragement from JJC Athletic Director Wayne King.

For more information about JJC's Athletic Department or the book drive, visit www.jjc.edu/student-life/athletics.



JJC students spent the Jan. 20 holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by volunteering.

Students, Staff and Faculty Honor Dr. King by Serving

It may have been a holiday from school, but 20 JJC students and three staff members chose to spend the day volunteering at Hands of Hope of Illinois in Joliet on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day of Service, in an initiative called "A Day On, Not a Day Off."

Our group was part of more than 400 volunteers across Joliet who served the community on Monday, Jan. 20.

At Hands of Hope, the JJC group organized 2,300 pounds of red beans and six pallets of boxed crackers into smaller bags, which could then be distributed to families the following weekend. Hands of Hope of Illinois is a non-profit organization that distributes food to anyone in need.

"Twenty students giving up a day off from school is pretty impressive," said Pam Dilday, JJC director of student activities and campus life. "It was a service project, and they knew they were helping somebody else."

JJC Multicultural Retention Specialist Brandon Jackson and Amy Sims, JJC coordinator of student activities and holistic wellness, helped set up JJC students' involvement with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Jackson said he thought the students learned from the experience.
"I think students got an opportunity to see that there are some individuals in the community that are really trying to do some good," Jackson said. "Seeing those individuals can inspire them to give back to the community."

This was the first year JJC students and staff participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, but according to Jackson, Dilday and Sims, it won't be the last.

JJC Ranks First in PepsiCo Dream Machine Recycling

In our last issue, we introduced the PepsiCo Dream Machine, an electronic recycling kiosk located near the cafeteria on Main Campus. Since the Dream Machine arrived, Joliet Junior College students, faculty and staff have recycled more than 3,000 beverages, making JJC the current first place school in PepsiCo's college recycling challenge.

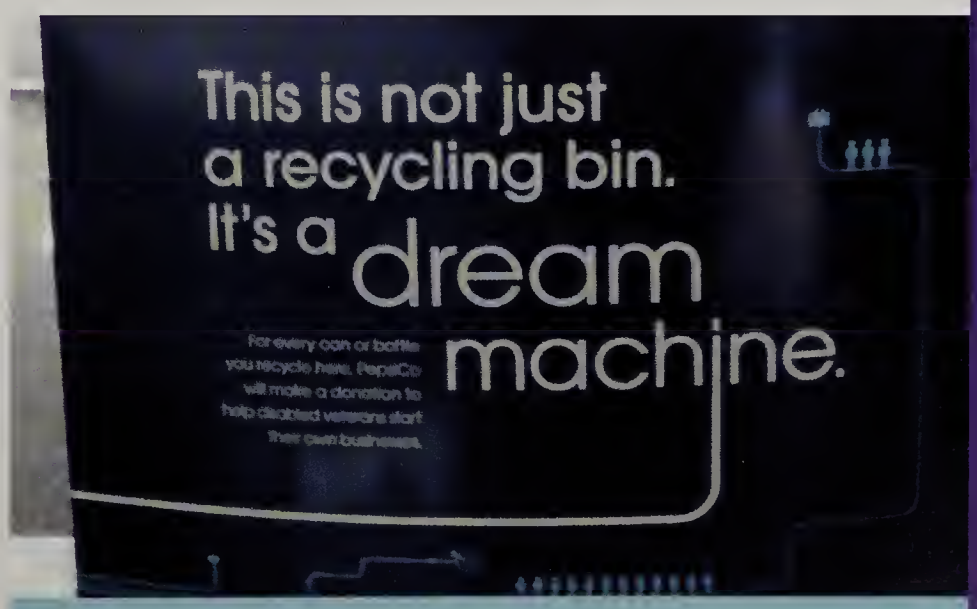
The Dream Machine rewards students with points for recycling beverage containers of any brand or size. Once a student reaches 100 points, he or she can redeem them for coupons and discounts at area retailers and restaurants.

The Dream Machine only takes aluminum and plastic bottles. Designated recycle bins on campus are used for other materials, such as glass and paper.

As long as people continue to use the Dream Machine, PepsiCo Recycling has also promised to donate to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV). The EBV is a national program that gives free training to post-9/11 veterans who have goals of starting their own businesses.

PepsiCo created the college recycling challenge to not only encourage students to recycle, but to help increase the national recycling rate from 34 percent to 50 percent by 2018. "The Dream Machine is a convenient way to recycle at JJC and it seems to have inspired many people," said Pat Van Duyne, director of facility services at JJC. "I have personally seen individuals bringing bags of recyclables to campus to capitalize upon the rewards system."

Although the Dream Machine is geared toward students, anyone in the community can use it to earn points as well.



The Dream Machine, ready to reward students for recycling.

Past & Future Co-exist at JJC

JJC offers two unique opportunities that bring school-aged children – or anyone – to Main Campus. One, the Cronin Schoolhouse, is a step back in time to a bygone era, when children of all grade levels learned reading, writing and arithmetic together in the same room. Those of us who grew up watching *Little House on the Prairie* might find the schoolhouse familiar, thanks to Laura Ingalls and her pals.

On the other side of the spectrum, the Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium invites students to take a metaphoric trip into space, viewing the breadth of the universe by taking an in-depth view at the solar system, the moon, constellations and Earth's relationship to them. The Planetarium features a 30-foot diameter dome and will soon house a new, state-of-the-art projector for an experience that is, dare we say ... astronomical.



The Past:
Cronin Schoolhouse

Along a tree-lined section of Main Campus, near the JJC lake, you'll find the Cronin Schoolhouse. The 150-year-old building was declared a local landmark by the Joliet City Council in 2013, the same year the Will County Historic Preservation Commission gave the Schoolhouse its annual preservation award.

Today, the one-room schoolhouse serves as a living history museum that hundreds of elementary school children visit each week. The Schoolhouse operated as a school until the 1950s. Like all one-room schools, the Cronin Schoolhouse served children from first through eighth grade, and was short on the creature comforts we enjoy today – such as indoor plumbing and heat. The teachers would use coal and corn cobs to heat the furnace, showing up early each morning to warm the room before students arrived.

"Visitors love coming to the Cronin Schoolhouse," said Kristi Mulvey, Executive Director of Resource Development and the JJC Foundation. "Having the opportunity to experience the learning environment of long ago in a way they can relate to makes this bit of living history meaningful and fun for them."

The schoolhouse came to JJC in 1987, when the Larkin family donated it to the Joliet Junior College Foundation. Today, students and community members visit the schoolhouse to gain a new understanding of how our community has always valued education.

The Future:
The Herbert Trackman Planetarium

Visitors to the planetarium are invited to discover the wonders of space up close, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Herbert Trackman and the college's commitment to enriching lives through quality programs and services. The planetarium was built in 1972, and is one of only seven on community college campuses in the state of Illinois. Thanks to a donation from the Joliet Junior College Foundation, a new projector was installed this spring, creating a truly state-of-the-art facility within the confines of JJC. With the new system, we can now offer exciting new shows, including "Legends of the Night Sky," in which Perseus and Andromeda animate to teach children about how the Greeks told stories about the stars. Seasonal shows will be available, too, showing the constellations at specific times of the year. "Another attribute of the new system is being able to connect with other planetariums worldwide," Mulvey said. "For JJC students of astronomy, and students around the world, this technology is a game-changer."





The planetarium welcomes nearly 10,000 visitors each year, who enjoy educational shows at no charge. Scheduled evening shows are open to the public, and school groups are encouraged to arrange for special programs that can be presented during the school day, and are tailored to the grade level of students attending.

Social and civic organizations can reserve a show for their members, during our regular Tuesday and Thursday programming. There is truly something for everyone, and the full schedule is available at www.jjc.edu/about/community-interests/planetarium.



Schedule a Visit

Scheduling a group visit to the Schoolhouse or Planetarium is free, and can be arranged by contacting fieldtripcoordinator@jjc.edu. Trips are not limited to school groups; any group is welcome!

2014 Spring Events at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events

6th Annual 5K Run and Walk
May 3
8:30 a.m. Wolves' Run and Kits' Race
9:30 a.m. 5K Run and Walk
jjc.edu/info/5K

33rd Annual Alumni Brunch
June 1
11 a.m.
Honoring the classes of 1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Achievement and Susan H. Wood Award recipients. Contact alumni@jjc.edu for details.

Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. For moreinformation, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Thursday Shows -- 6:30 p.m.

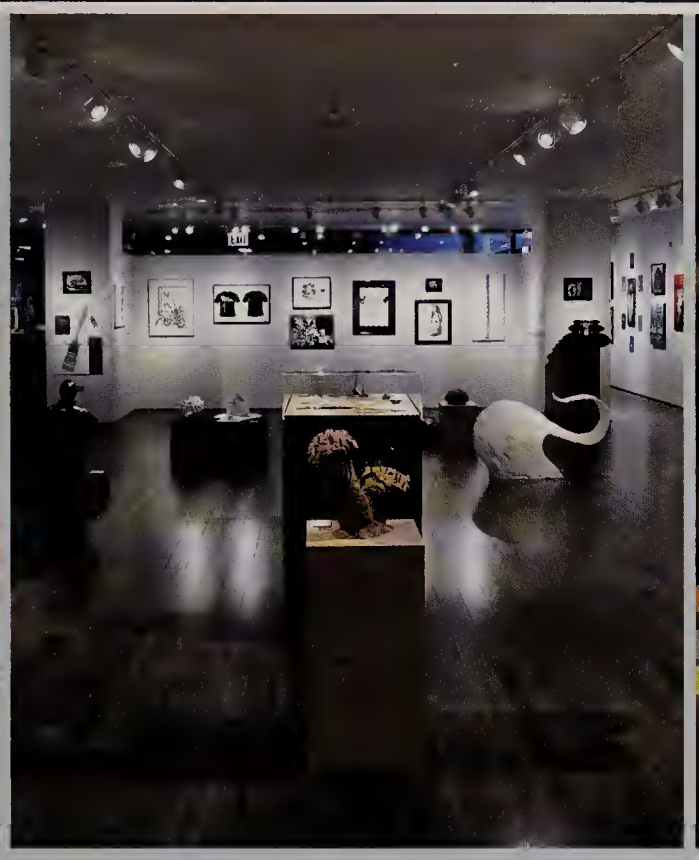
April 24	Mars
May 8	We Go to the Moon
May 22	Colliding Objects in Space
June 5	Seasonal Skies

Tuesday Shows - 7:30 p.m.

April 29	Mars
May 13	Colliding Objects in Space
May 27	Wonders in the Night
June 10	Search For Intelligent Life









Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts

Spring Festival of One Acts held in the Black Box Theatre
April 25-26 - 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Musica Viva: Richard Moore, clarinet and Dr. Daniela Broderick, piano
April 27 – 3 p.m.

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
April 28-30

Student Recital
April 30 – 11 a.m.

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
May 1-31

Jazz Band Spring Concert
May 2 – 7:30 p.m.

Community Band Spring Concert
May 4 – 3 p.m.

Chorale Masterworks Concert featuring the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Community Chorale
May 10 – 7:30 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert
May 13 – 7:30 p.m.

Honors Recital
May 15 – 7:30 p.m.

Applied Music Auditions for 2014 Summer and 2014 Fall Semesters
May 17- Please call (815) 280-2223 for an audition time

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
June 1-20

Touring Children's Theatre Production
June 3-13
call Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 to book a tour appearance

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/events** for more events and information.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **ww.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**

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Attending JJC led **Paige Vanderhyden**, a **1988 and 1989 graduate**, to her lifelong passion - education and making a difference in the lives of others. Paige has been employed at JJC for 22 years; she serves as the Director of Workforce Development and is working toward her doctorate in Community College Leadership. Paige gives back to her alma mater by sharing her knowledge and expertise as a member of the JJC Alumni Board.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET
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joliet junior college magazine



FALL 2014

THE INSIDE CONNECTION

Featuring Businesses of JJC Alumni

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 1901



Sue Regis Glass Art specializes in custom flamework glass, artwork, jewelry and one-of-a-kind items.

TREASURE THEIR MEMORIES

Treasure your loved one's or pet's memory with a custom, cremains-infused glass piece of art. Mention this ad and receive 10% OFF ANY PURCHASE.





Sue Regis, JJC Alumna and Business Owner

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GROUP DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Come join Sue for an informative demonstration of flameworked glass. Watch and learn as she creates beautiful pieces of art. Ask questions and talk directly with the artist. Or attend a workshop and experience working with the torch for yourself! Sue will work one-on-one for approximately 10 minutes with each individual to create their own piece of art to take home.

Starting at $5 Per Person.

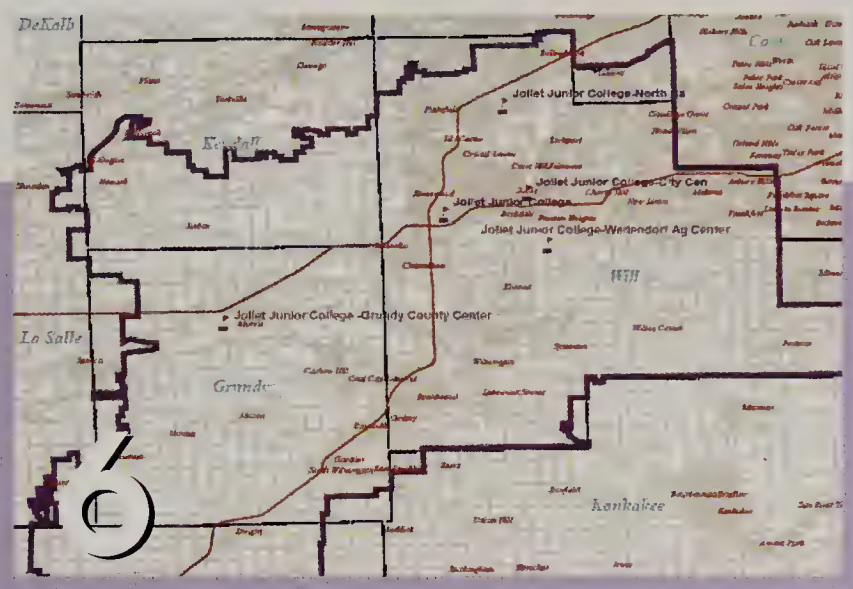
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Investing in Infrastructure: Expansion Projects Move Forward

JJC will continue to grow as two new projects, the Multipurpose Center and Romeoville Campus expansion, begin. In addition, the new City Center Campus is expected to be completed in 2016.



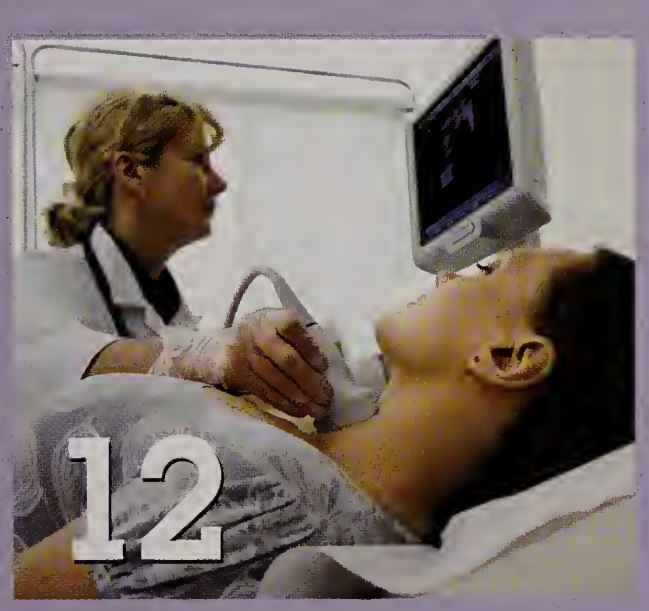
Stewardship: How JJC Applies and Invests Resources to Benefit Our Communities

The college demonstrates wise stewardship of funding by investing in programs and resources that directly benefit its students and district.



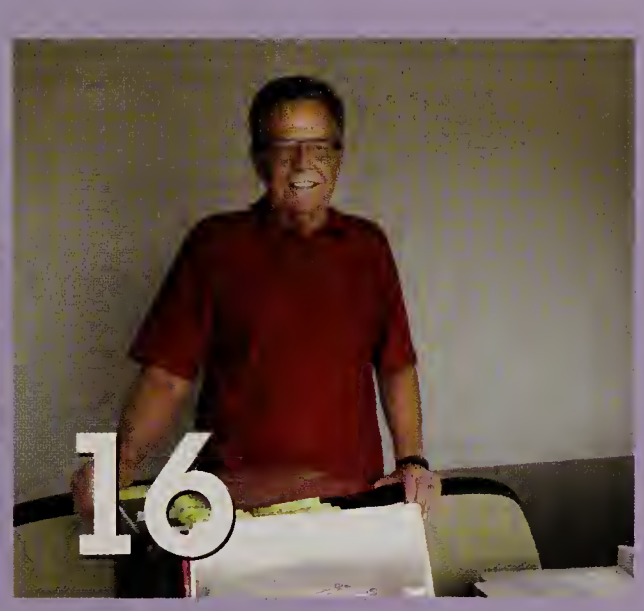
In Memoriam: John Houbolt

Famous JJC alum and NASA pioneer played a significant role in the nation's space program.



Granting Opportunities through New Programs

Two new grant-funded programs at the college will help students secure employment in growing fields.



From the Archives: JJC Receives Significant Collection of Historical Artifacts

Professor Emeritus Robert Sterling donates largest collection of photos, documents and ephemera in college history.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,

As a world-class institution, we continually strive to offer the most current programs, in the most up-to-date facilities, supported by the most talented faculty and staff. In support of that effort, this year we have strengthened our general education and transfer offerings, introduced a diagnostic medical sonography program and revamped several career programs, such as welding.

To further support the success of our students, this fall we opened a veterans' center and expanded our tutoring facilities, and we are planning the expansion of the Romeoville Campus and construction of a multipurpose building.

As you will see throughout the pages of Connections, there are many exciting changes happening at JJC. As we move forward in our efforts to serve you, our community, we remain dedicated to offering excellent education opportunities.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our mission.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.
President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I write my message for this issue of Connections, I hear a student walk in the door to our office. She is new to the college and looking for scholarships to help her pay for her classes. I hear her chatting with the office staff about her dream to become a nurse, but I also hear hesitation in her voice. Surprisingly, I discover that she is not fearful about the hours she will spend studying for her classes, she is worried about paying for them. As I continue to listen to the conversation, I become a little concerned myself; will her fear stop her from pursuing her dream?

In this issue of Connections, you will discover many stories about stewardship. Many of you have made your own commitment to stewardship at JJC. You have taken on the responsibility of enhancing the resources and capacity of our community college by providing past or yearly donations to college scholarships or funds. These generous gifts have helped us to be more effective and efficient in meeting the needs of our students.

Due to current economic conditions, there are more and more students looking for help to pay for school. I hope you will use the envelope provided in this magazine to make your commitment to stewardship by donating to a college scholarship or fund of your choice. The more opportunities we have to help our students, the less fear we will have that they will choose to abandon their dreams.
Thank you for taking the time to commit to stewardship!

Best Regards,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

**Donations can also be made online at www.jjc.edu/info/foundation.*

Investing in Infrastructure:
Expansion Projects Move Forward



Though still in the early stages of development, the Multipurpose Center on the Main Campus, along with the Romeoville Campus expansion, look to meet key needs of the JJC district.

Both are outlined as priority projects in the college's Master Plan Update, which was approved by the college's Board of Trustees in April 2013. The update reconsiders 2008 master plan projects not yet implemented, examines new projects, and recommends priorities that respond to various challenges facing the college in the future.

The college's funding strategy includes a bond issue and a $4 capital assessment fee increase, both of which were approved by college trustees in August 2013.

"The Multipurpose Center and the Romeoville Campus expansion were all identified as priority projects [in the 2008-2013 Master Plan], but were targeted as phase two projects. All trustees wanted to keep the [2008] referendum request as low as possible for taxpayers while demonstrating to students that the board could manage their tuition increase wisely," said JJC Board Chairman Andy Mihelich.



Multipurpose Center

The footprint of this new building will sit on the south end of the Main Campus at the former football practice field location and will bring significant upgrades to JJC athletics and training programs. The 74,000-square-foot center will also allow the college to bring its commencement ceremonies back to Main Campus. Key features will include open space for practices and competitions, basketball courts, coaches' offices, locker rooms and more. Building facilities also could be rented to community organizations. JJC athletic teams currently include men's cross country, soccer, basketball and baseball; women's team include cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball. Cost to construct the center is $17.2 million and the estimated opening is fall 2017.

"This type of facility is greatly needed at JJC," said Director of Athletics/Head Baseball Coach Wayne L. King Jr. "Many of JJC's athletes come from high schools that have something like this. It would be invaluable on many levels, especially for recruiting student-athletes to JJC."



Romeoville Campus Expansion

Opened in 1993 and currently bursting at the seams due to perpetually increasing enrollment, the proposed Romeoville Campus expansion would nearly double the size of the current campus, adding 48,000 square feet at a construction cost of $11.8 million. The estimated completion for the expansion is fall 2017.

"With the expansion, the campus will have opportunities to look at different programming options, expand access to critical student support service including testing, new student orientations, counseling and financial aid, and to provide student activity space for events," said Extended Campus Coordinator Amy Kittle.

Expanding the Romeoville Campus, which currently occupies 20 acres, will broaden opportunities in academics and support services, and also give students open space to collaborate with their peers and to attend larger student events such as college and job fairs. The campus currently offers a variety of credit and non-credit courses and the expansion will allow the college to offer more class options. Additional space will also bring key student support services in the areas of admissions, counseling, Career Services, tutoring and testing centers, computer labs, and food service and a bookstore. There is also a plan for a larger multipurpose room for student clubs and the community to use.

"Part of JJC's mission is to provide our communities with affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. Our surrounding residential and business community is growing and JJC has recognized the need to provide an academic environment that is poised to respond to the community's educational needs," Kittle added.



City Center Campus Taking Shape

If you've been in downtown Joliet recently, you might have noticed something new on the city's horizon – Joliet Junior College's state-of-the-art City Center Campus building. The six-story structure taking shape on the corner of Chicago and Webster streets will house current City Center Campus programs such as workforce development, GED/ESL training and adult education, while also welcoming the JJC Culinary Arts program.

Construction of the $58-million, 96,000-square-foot building began in the spring of 2013 with the core and shell completed in the spring of 2014. The interior build-out phase is currently in design, with hopes of the facility opening in the fall of 2016.

"We are pleased to be a partner in the effort to revitalize downtown Joliet, helping to enhance the community while maintaining and updating the historic Renaissance Center and by constructing our new campus," said Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Judy Mitchell. "Most importantly, we are continuing to provide access to key educational programs for our college district."

Many sustainable features have been incorporated into the building design, in an effort to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. The project is part of the JJC 2008-13 Master Plan, with funding provided through a collaborative effort between the college and the Illinois Community College Board, and $15 million from the successful 2008 referendum.

Stewardship:

How JJC Applies and Invests Resources to Benefit Our Communities

Stewardship is defined as the activity of protecting and being responsible for something. Community colleges fill a unique role in higher education, constant stewards of public funds, tuition dollars, grant funds, philanthropic donations, and most importantly, student success.

While labor markets and economies fluctuate, program enrollments rise and plateau, and new legislative policy shapes infrastructure, community colleges must quickly evolve to meet these constantly changing demands while supporting the success of students and their varied goals.

In the past year, Joliet Junior College has continued its role of financial and educational stewardship by offering new career programs, developing new funding sources, and advancing its delivery of student support and outreach opportunities.

In particular, the college enhanced its welding program to meet the needs of a new age in advanced manufacturing, created a new sonography program, and completed the construction of a Veterans Resource Center and new, centrally-located Tutoring and Learning Center.



Dawana Griffin is a 2014 graduate of JJC's welding program

Welding Together a Solid Career

With advanced manufacturing careers on the rise in the United States, and with an aging welding workforce that will create a shortage of more than 200,000 industry professionals by 2020 according to the American Welding Society, JJC's welding program lab was expanded and upgraded thanks to a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCCT) the college received in 2012.

JJC was one of 21 Illinois community colleges in an education consortium, known as the Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) that collectively received the $12.9 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support innovative job training and manufacturing programs.

Today, the program boasts a total of 18 individual welding booths, double its previous capacity, and includes booths specifically designed for practicing oxy-fuel and gas-tungsten welding. Additionally, a new ventilation system and an upgraded 110-volt electrical system have made the facility truly state-of-the-art.

The TAACCCT grant also allowed the program to purchase virtual welders, which give students the opportunity to practice and refine their welding skills safely in a simulated environment before moving on to the real booths.

In addition to improvements in equipment and facilities, the program now offers six new specialized welding certificates of completion, which students can achieve while simultaneously pursuing the industrial welding technology associate in applied science (AAS) degree. The program also changed to a full academic 16-week schedule as opposed, to the previous eight-week schedule, due to the expanded curriculum.

The overhaul of the program came just in time, as interest in welding has grown significantly. From spring 2013 to spring 2014, enrollment grew 100 percent.

"It's all about supply and demand," Greg Foster, associate professor of industrial welding technology, says. "There is a shortage of welders out there and JJC prepares our students to fill these openings."

> "It's all about supply and demand; there is a shortage of welders out there and JJC prepares our students to fill these openings."
>
> Greg Foster
> Associate Professor of Industrial Welding

According to a March 2014 Business Week article, a shrinking manufacturing sector since the 1980s has greatly reduced the number of welding jobs nationally. But as manufacturing has steadily grown again since 2009, and since the average age of a welder in the U.S. is 55.which will result in a high number of retirements over the coming years, the industry is finding itself with a shortage of skilled workers prepared to fill those gaps.



JJC's new diagnostic medical sonography program prepares students for in-demand jobs.

Sonography: Seeing the Entire Picture

Students looking to pursue careers in the ultrasound field are now able to complete an associate in applied science (AAS) degree or a certificate in diagnostic medical sonography (DMS) at JJC, one of the only community colleges in northern Illinois to offer this program.

Sonography has become a very lucrative career choice with tremendous job prospects and high average salaries. According to the 2013 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Salary and Benefit Survey Report, the median salary for sonographers is $78,520 annually. Add to that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report that states the employment outlook for this field is projected to grow 46 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.

"As technology continues to advance in the ultrasound fields, careers in sonography are booming," Elena Miller, the college's new DMS program coordinator, says. "Above average starting salaries and tremendous career growth potential all contribute to the growing interest in JJC's sonography program."

The program includes both classroom and field learning experiences. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be qualified to take the abdomen, obstetrics/gynecology and sonography principles and instrumentation examinations given by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

> "As technology continues to advance in the ultrasound fields, careers in sonography are booming."
>
> Elena Miller
> DMS Program Coordinator

Miller notes that employment opportunities for DMS graduates are generally found in hospitals, outpatient medical centers, imaging centers and doctors' offices. In addition, career advancement opportunities exist in education, administration, research and in commercial companies as education or application specialists, sales representatives, technical advisors, among other careers. In January 2014, U.S. News and World Report ranked diagnostic medical sonography number 26 out of the 100 best jobs.



JJC hosted the grand opening of the new Veterans Center in September

New Resource Center Serving JJC Veterans

This fall, JJC unveiled its new Veterans Resource Center and a new Tutoring and Learning Center as part of the college's 2013 Master Plan Update.

Both projects were identified as priorities for the college to meet critical needs of the students and align with the goals established in the college's strategic plan. These new spaces also repurposed the areas within Main Campus that were vacated when the nursing program moved to the Health Professions Center in 2013.

A 1,700 square-foot space on the first floor of C-Building provides a dedicated area for veterans to gather and socialize, study, have computer access, and space for counseling and meeting. The new area includes a reception area, counseling room, computer stations and conference room.

"It's a great area for veterans to meet, collaborate and network at JJC," says David Seward, director of financial aid, "It's a space at JJC that is dedicated to everyone who served their country."

The space is open to all veterans attending the college. Around 300 student veterans use their veteran educational benefits each semester at JJC.

"It's a space at JJC that is dedicated to everyone who served their country."

David Seward
Director of Financial Aid



Students can now access tutoring resources in a centralized location on Main Campus

Streamlining Support: Tutoring Center Opens

The new Tutoring and Learning Center is located on the second floor of C-Building in the former nursing simulation lab. The main goal of this new center was to consolidate tutoring resources at the college. Once spread across Main Campus, tutoring resources now include: The Academic Skills Center, Speaking Center, Math Learning Center, Writing and Reading Center and Learning English for Academic Purposes Center (LEAP) in one convenient location for students.

"We heard first-hand from our students and understood their frustrations in having to go to many different areas on campus for tutoring," says Stephanie Braun, director of academic intervention and accommodation services. "Having a single location will make for more efficient visits for both the students and tutors alike."

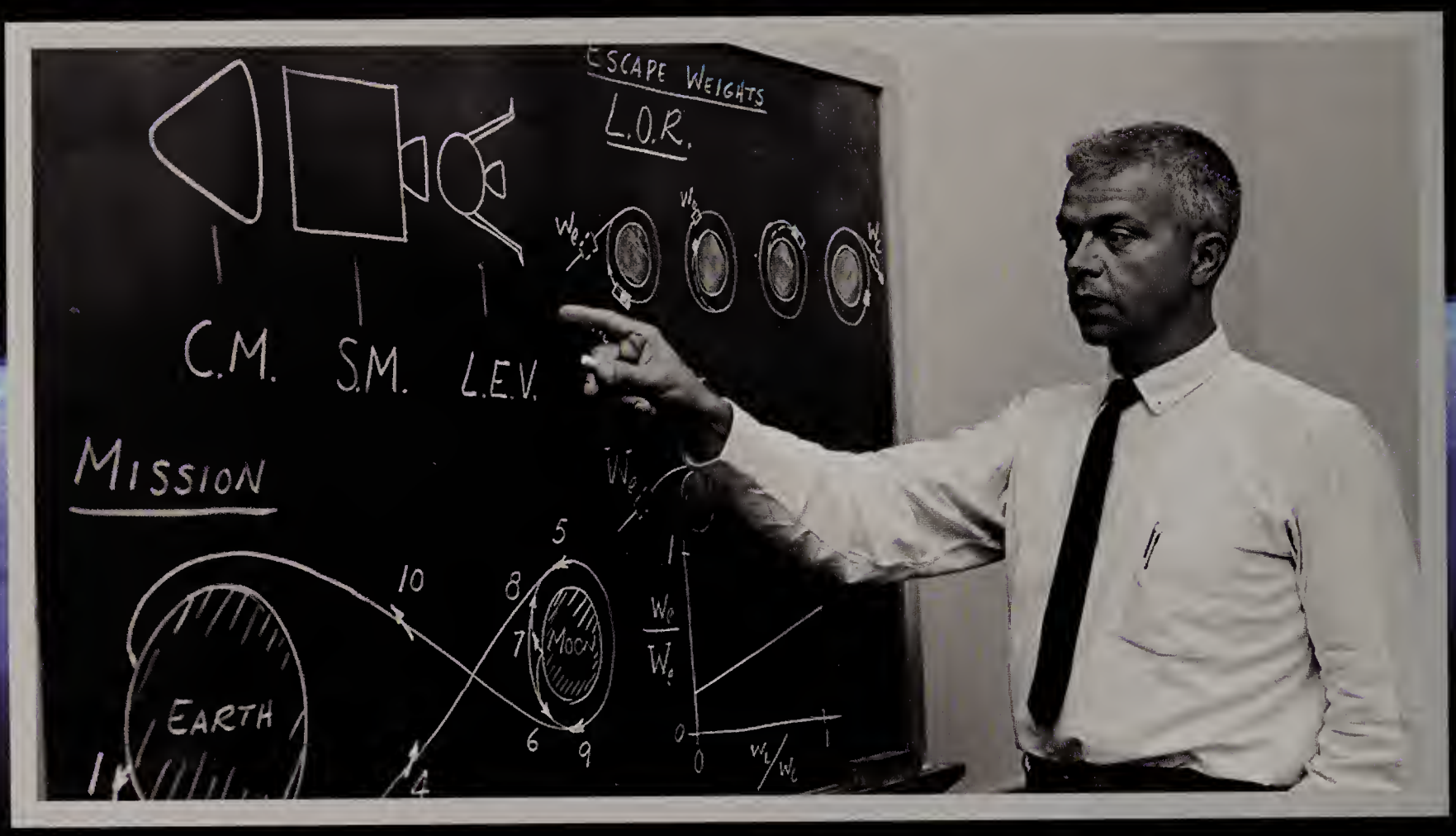
"Having a single location will make for more efficient visits for both the students and tutors alike."

Stephanie Braun
Director of Intervention
and Accommodation Services

The 7,900 square-foot space includes 91 computer stations and 10 separate spaces for group or individual tutoring sessions, workshops and trainings. Students can visit the Tutoring and Learning Center with or without an appointment. During the summer months alone, over 2,000 student appointments were held.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN HOUBOLT

Famous Alum and NASA Engineer Made His Mark on JJC



If it weren't for Joliet Junior College alumnus John Houbolt, Neil Armstrong may have never uttered his now infamous words: "One small step for man… one giant leap for mankind."

A 1938 JJC graduate, Houbolt went on to great success with his behind-the-scenes work that ultimately propelled mankind to the moon in 1969. Among his many accomplishments, NASA.gov credits Houbolt as one of the great unsung heroes of the agency's Apollo program. The JJC community was saddened to learn of Houbolt's passing at the age of 95 on April 15, 2014 due to complications from Parkinson's disease in Scarborough, Maine.

According to the college's 1938 yearbook, The J.C., as a student, Houbolt studied civil engineering and participated in the College Club. After completing his studies at JJC, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Illinois in Champaign in the 1940s, and a doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich in 1957.

Houbolt began working for NASA (then NACA) at one of the agency's first field centers, the Langley Research Center in Hampton Va., in 1942. In November 1961, Houbolt boldly wrote a nine-page letter to NASA Associate Administrator Dr. Robert Seamans about the company's plans to land a man on the moon. Houbolt's letter advocated using the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous (LOR) method to travel to the moon. In the letter, Houbolt famously posed the question, "Do we want to go to the moon or not?"

Thanks to Houbolt and his strong support of LOR, the 1969 moon landing not only proved to be successful – but it was economical and saved time. According to retired JJC professor Robert Sterling's book, "Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of

America's Oldest Public Community College," Houbolt estimated that his plan saved the United States $20 billion and accelerated the moon landing by roughly three years.

Two months after the 1969 moon landing, Sterling's book said the city of Joliet invited Houbolt back to the area for "John Houbolt Day," on Sept. 18, 1969. Houbolt and his family attended, and were paraded down the streets of Joliet. They also attended a luncheon that included 600 people. At the luncheon, JJC representatives and Joliet Mayor Maurice Berlinsky spoke of their plans to rename Airport Road in Houbolt's honor.



John Houbolt as a JJC student in 1938

Just a few years after Houbolt Road was named, Houbolt came back to JJC as the principal speaker for the new JJC campus dedication ceremony on Oct. 22, 1972. The college honored Houbolt again in 1986 with an Alumni Achievement Award.

In addition to Houbolt Road, the city of Joliet has also honored Houbolt with a mural, located near the Joliet Union Station, which illustrates Houbolt's work for NASA and the LOR method.

To honor his memory, the Houbolt family invites the community to donate to the JJC Foundation in John C. Houbolt's name. For more information on how to donate, call the JJC Foundation at 815-280-2353.



John Houbolt was honored with a parade through Joliet in September 1969

$ MAJOR GRANTS

Granting Opportunities through New Programs



Laura Cotner (right), JJC technical professor explains engineering analysis for efficiency of wind generated power. This concept will be incorporated into the Engineering Graphical Communications [EGR 101] class. As part of the NSF grant, sustainable energy principles and practices will be integrated across many technical disciplines.

Supporting innovation and developing programs to meet community needs are oftentimes sustained through grant funding. At JJC, well over $25 million dollars has been awarded through federal, state and local government entities, as well as corporate, public and private foundation sources.

Most recently, the college was awarded two grants that will help students land in-demand careers upon graduation: the "My Future" program, funded by a grant from the Workforce Investment Board of Will County, will help low-income students pay for schooling; and the "Integrating Sustainability Through Technical Education," project, funded by the National Science Foundation, will give students opportunities to prepare for in-demand careers in the sustainable technology field.

These grants help support the college's goals of increasing student success and completion, preparing students for in-demand careers that align with the current the labor market, addressing the needs of minorities and underrepresented students, increasing resource development for students and expanding the use of technology and sustainable methods.

"My Future" Program

The "My Future" program will offer career scholarships that cover all tuition, fees and books for associate degree and other training programs to eligible, low-income youth between the ages of 17-21. Scholarship recipients must choose a career that's in high demand in Will County to be eligible. A total of 70 students will be accepted.

After receiving a degree or certificate through the program, JJC will also help scholarship recipients secure employment upon graduation.

The program's goals are to keep local youth in the Will County workforce, promote higher education, create skilled workers for in-demand jobs and to retain those workers.

"JJC cares about our youth and our workforce here in Will County," Paige Vanderhyden, JJC director of workforce development, said. "We're always looking for ways to make sure our workforce is prepared and can enter into high-growth, high-demand occupations to be self-sufficient, and that's exactly what the 'My Future' program aims to do."

Once accepted into the program, students will meet regularly with Case Management Specialist Karlie Cooper to select their classes and manage their success in the program.

Tammy Tschida, employee relations coordinator, is currently developing relationships with Will County companies so when the "My Future," applicants graduate, they'll have a place to start their careers. Cody Dailey, career specialist, is working to increase awareness of the program.

"We're very happy to have the opportunity to provide these services for youth in Will County and to be able to give them the chance for training or college," said Vanderhyden. "JJC's accessibility, reputation and the quality of the instruction we provide, will prepare students for the workforce."

"Integrating Sustainability Through Technical Education" Project

Thanks to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program, JJC received a grant of $199,523 to develop its Integrating Sustainability Through Technical Education project. This project will integrate sustainable energy technology practices within technical programs at the college, with the goal of creating an "Introduction to Sustainability" course by fall 2015, and eventually a certificate in sustainable energy technology.

The 'Introduction to Sustainability' class will be considered a general education course for all degrees, or an elective credit for technical programs. The class would educate students on sustainability initiatives in technology and other philosophies.

This class will demonstrate to students how sustainability relates to other technical fields. According to the 2010 Report of the National Energy Technician Education Summit, colleges are constantly being encouraged to integrate sustainable energy competencies in existing programs. For this reason, JJC is adapting existing programs to meet the emerging need for professionals educated in sustainability across technical disciplines.

Once the class is open, JJC will offer it as a dual credit course for students in grades 7-12, allowing students to gain college credit before graduating high school.

The college is also planning to offer professional development conferences and workshops geared toward JJC professors, middle school teachers and high school teachers. The workshops will teach these educators about incorporating sustainability into their curriculums.

"Joliet Junior College is committed to providing professional development opportunities to the community."

Amy Murphy
Director of Corporate and Community Services

"Joliet Junior College is committed to providing professional development opportunities to the community," said Amy Murphy, director of corporate and community services. Murphy said JJC chose to pursue these options after discussing local needs for greening the workforce with industry companies. "They helped develop our concept to green the existing curriculum rather than trying to create anything completely new or to replace what we already had," Murphy added. "JJC as a college is very active in the community for sustainability initiatives and holds membership in quite a few organizations which are excellent sources for sharing of information and staying abreast of what other colleges are doing to green on campus and in the classroom."

Around Campus

What's happening at JJC



Left to right: Carol Baum, JJC President Emeritus J.D. Ross, ESA Winner James Baum, JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels, and State Sen. Sue Rezin at the ESA presentation in March.

JJC Board of Trustees Honors Grundy County Philanthropist with J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award

James Baum of Morris, Ill. was honored as the recipient of the 2013 Joliet Junior College J. D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award (ESA) at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 11.

The J. D. Ross ESA is the highest honor bestowed by the college and was developed by the Board of Trustees to honor community members who have given outstanding service to Community College District 525.

Nominated by State Senator Sue Rezin (38th District), Baum is the founder and first president of the Community Foundation of Grundy County (CFGC), which he began in 1999.

During Baum's tenure on the CFGC, the Foundation grew from $50,000 in assets in 1999 to $6 million in 2013, and has facilitated more than $1 million in grants to not-for-profits.

Senator Rezin also noted in her nomination form that Baum purchased a building in Morris in order to provide space for the offices of several non-profit agencies, and has donated countless hours of his time volunteering for many causes and programs in Grundy County.

In addition to founding and serving on the CFGC since 1999, Baum has served actively on a number of other community boards, including the Grundy Economic Development Council, Morris Hospital, Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Morris Downtown Development Partnership, Breaking Away, Illinois Retail Merchants Association, National Retail Federation, Morris Community High School, First Presbyterian Church, Evergreen Cemetery, Grundy Bank, Keystone and the JJC Foundation Board of Directors.



JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels holds a plaque presented to the college by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White in April for the college's support of organ and tissue donation.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White Visits JJC to Promote Organ and Tissue Donation

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White visited Joliet Junior College on April 11 to promote organ and tissue donor registration among Illinois residents, particularly college students, for National Donate Life Month.

During his visit, White held a press conference in which he spoke passionately about the need for donors, and the more than 5,000 people in Illinois on the waiting list to receive an organ or tissue transplant. White shared that one person could save 25 lives when they sign up to be a donor.

Kim Koning, a JJC nursing student and liver transplant recipient, also spoke at the event, sharing her story of several serious illnesses that eventually led to the need for a new liver. In 2012, she was finally able to receive the life-saving procedure she needed when a donor liver proved to be a match.

"I am so grateful people [register to be organ/tissue donors]," she said. "I'm mostly thankful for my donor – I will forever be grateful to that person."

Koning went on to share that she is currently pursuing a degree in nursing so that someday she can give back and help others who are waiting for a transplant.

JJC student volunteers who staffed an organ donation information table were able to sign up more than 40 people as organ and tissue donors.

Local elected officials who attended the event included Joliet Mayor Tom Giarrante and Joliet City Councilman Bob O'Dekirk, who came to show their support for Secretary White's campaign.

Additionally, White presented JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels with a special plaque, thanking JJC for hosting the special event and supporting the campaign's efforts to boost donor registration.

JJC Participates in Lincoln Presidential Library Oral History Project

This past spring, the college participated in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's (ALPLM) statewide oral history project to collect and preserve the stories and experiences of former and current community college presidents, trustees, administrators, faculty and staff in Illinois. The project, titled "Education is Key," included retired JJC administrators Hank Pillard and Walt Zaida, as well as Ron Whitaker, a JJC alum and former college trustee, all of whom shared their first-hand accounts of the college spanning a 45-year period.

Pillard, who worked at JJC from 1965 to 1988 as a dean for Student Services and as a wrestling coach, discussed JJC's transition from being affiliated with the Joliet Township High School district in 1901, to its own school. He also spoke of how JJC dealt with changes due to the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement and student unrest.

Whitaker also spoke of JJC's transition to becoming its own independent entity. He told the ALPLM of his time on the Board of Trustees from 1965 to 1970, when several critical issues were being considered.

Zaida began working at Joliet Junior College in 1961, and retired in 1986 after serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs and as interim President. He spoke of JJC's history from 1901 through 1986, highlighting the important role that the Junior College Act of 1965 had on the Illinois' community college system.

According to the ALPLM, the "Education is Key" project "tells a story that continues to evolve in our complex and dynamic society. This project preserves the history of education in Illinois, and studies both the triumphs as well as the many challenges that educators, students and community leaders face today."

To listen to Pillard, Whitaker, and Zaida's interviews, visit **www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library** and search for the "Education is Key" project.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

JJC Receives Significant Collection of Historical Artifacts



Dr. Robert E. Sterling

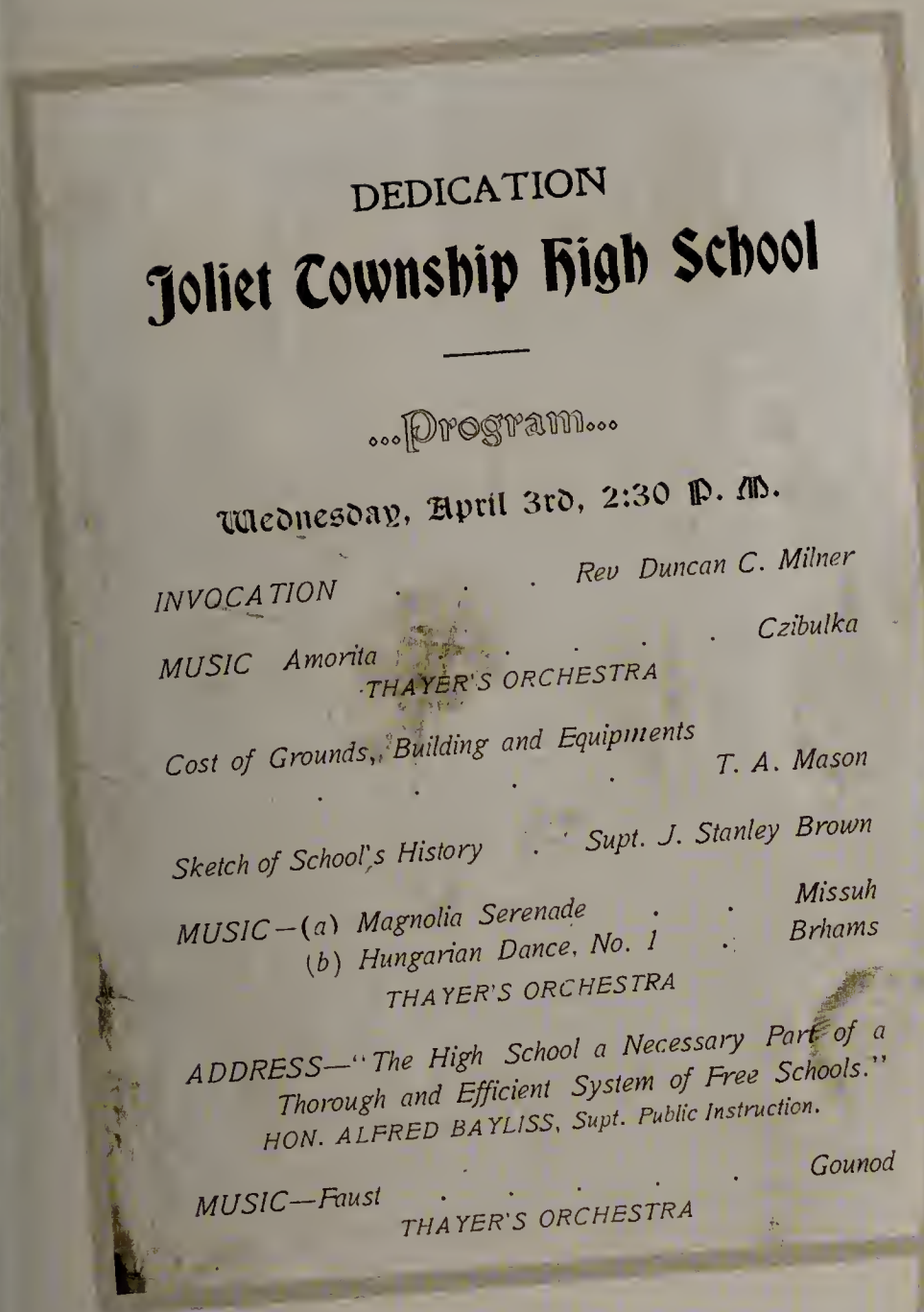
In April of this year, Dr. Robert E. Sterling, professor emeritus of history at JJC, donated hundreds of photographs, original college documents and historical ephemera to the college archives. The materials donated by Dr. Sterling serve as the most significant acquisition of historical documents to the college archives to date.

The materials cover the college's history from its beginnings in 1901 to the present day. Within the collection are original copies of the programs for the first and second commencement ceremonies at Joliet Township High School (where Joliet Junior College began), from 1900 and 1901; an intact copy of the "First Report," a publication that chronicles the planning, building, dedication and implementation of the high school in downtown Joliet; the minutes for the first student government meeting at JJC in 1929, as well as, hundreds of photographs showing the growth of JTHS and JJC over its 113 year existence.

The collection, however, might never have existed if it were not for Sterling's course assignments in the early part of his career at JJC. Dr. Sterling recently recalled the collection's unintentional beginnings:

"In 1969, I was asked to develop and teach a local history course. As a young, non-tenured history instructor, how could I say no? But really – local history? I quickly discovered that very few resources were available for teaching such a class, except musty old histories of Will County written in 1878 and 1907. In an effort to record local history as well as to study it, my students began taping oral history interviews with elderly residents in the community. Many interviewees were willing to share old photos and documents as well as their memories. I was hooked! For the next forty years, I avidly collected anything and everything related to the history of the Joliet region, including JJC."

It was this dedication to his students, community and profession, that led Sterling to build a collection that grew beyond the first of local history classes he taught at JJC and eventually led to the publication of seven pictorial histories of the Joliet region, including a centennial history of JJC published in 2001. All of Dr. Sterling's publications are available in the JJC Library, including the previously mentioned oral history interviews which are located in the college archives. Visitation and viewing of materials in the college archives



DEDICATION

Joliet Township High School

...Program...

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2:30 P. M.

INVOCATION . . . Rev Duncan C. Milner

MUSIC Amorita . . . . . Czibulka
THAYER'S ORCHESTRA

Cost of Grounds, Building and Equipments . . . . . T. A. Mason

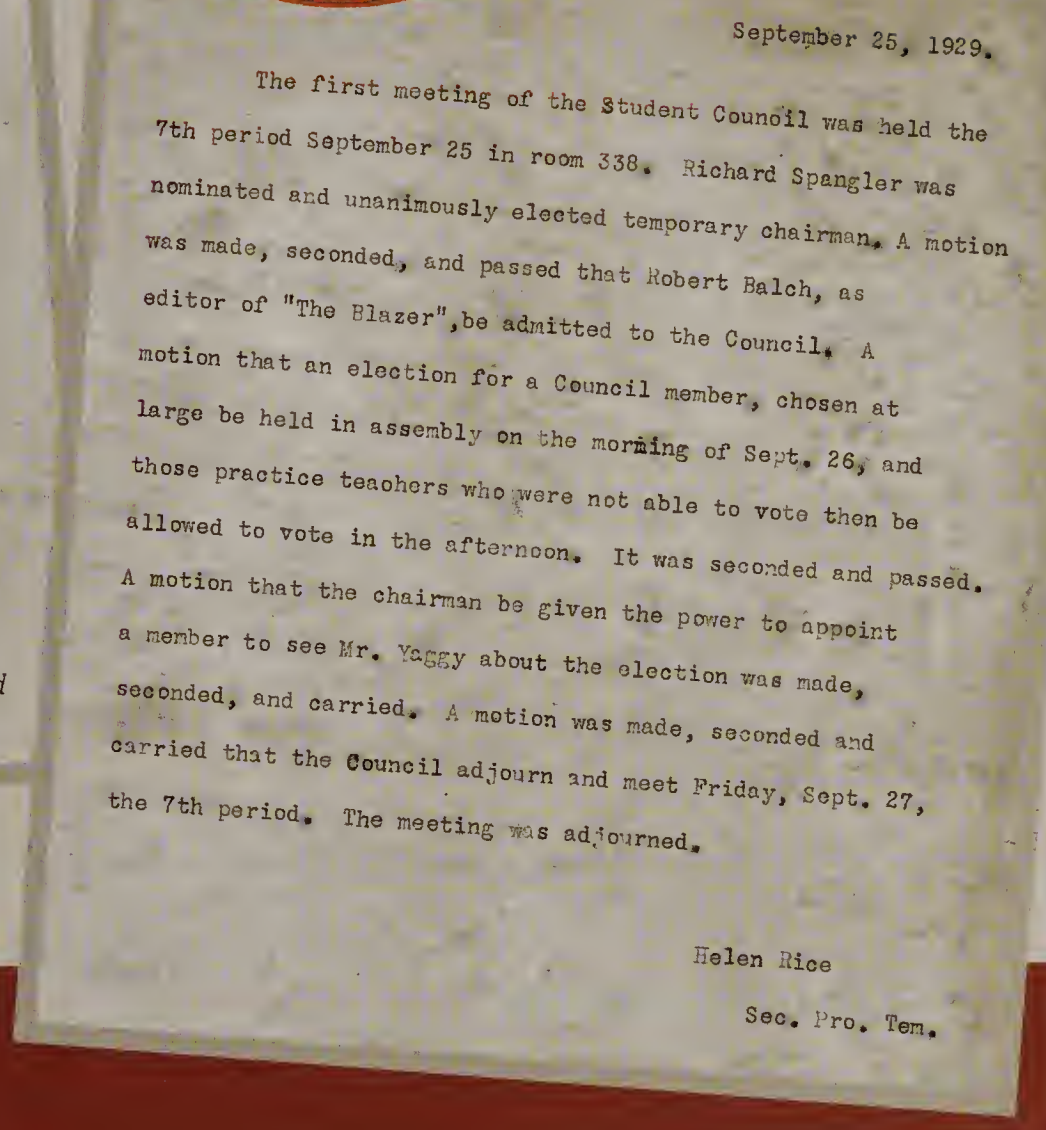
Sketch of School's History . . Supt. J. Stanley Brown

MUSIC—(a) Magnolia Serenade . . Missuh
(b) Hungarian Dance, No. 1 . . Brhams
THAYER'S ORCHESTRA

ADDRESS—"The High School a Necessary Part of a Thorough and Efficient System of Free Schools."
HON. ALFRED BAYLISS, Supt. Public Instruction.

MUSIC—Faust . . . . . Gounod
THAYER'S ORCHESTRA





September 25, 1929.

The first meeting of the Student Council was held the 7th period September 25 in room 338. Richard Spangler was nominated and unanimously elected temporary chairman. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that Robert Balch, as editor of "The Blazer", be admitted to the Council. A motion that an election for a Council member, chosen at large be held in assembly on the morning of Sept. 26, and those practice teachers who were not able to vote then be allowed to vote in the afternoon. It was seconded and passed. A motion that the chairman be given the power to appoint a member to see Mr. Yaggy about the election was made, seconded, and carried. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the Council adjourn and meet Friday, Sept. 27, the 7th period. The meeting was adjourned.

Helen Rice

Sec. Pro. Tem.

is open to the public. To schedule a visit, please contact the JJC Library for available times.

The Sterling Collection will continue to serve as an educational resource for students and the community at large. The primary documents in the collection are invaluable to anyone researching the history of Joliet Junior College and its relationship locally to the Joliet community, and nationally to the development of higher education in America. Currently, the documents are being organized and catalogued to begin the digitization process. Once that is complete, the materials will be available digitally within the Joliet Junior College Library page on the Internet Archive, much like the college yearbook collection and the Wordeater collection. When Dr. Sterling delivered his collection to the JJC Archives, he commented that he hoped his donation would encourage others to donate their college photos and documents. As the College Archives continues to expand, it provides an important glimpse into the history and development of the college.

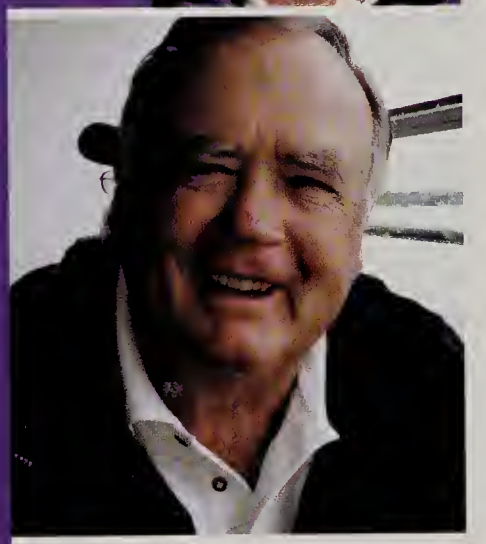
Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: 815-280-2665

People Then and Now





Coach Bob MacDougall

THEN

In 2000, after retiring from College of DuPage, Bob MacDougall was hired as the head football coach of Joliet Junior College. He took over a struggling program that for twenty years averaged three wins per season. MacDougall was hired to turn it around. Under his leadership, the Wolves won two National Championships in 2001 and 2002, and also went to Bowl games in 2001, 2002 and 2005. He retired in 2005 with a 48-15 record. Collectively from his 21 years at College of DuPage and six seasons at JJC, MacDougall had 222 wins and 72 losses, for which he credits his outstanding staff and many gifted players. MacDougall was inducted into the 1998 NJCAA Hall of Fame and 2006 Region IV Hall of Fame, and named 1995 and 2002 National Coach of the Year.

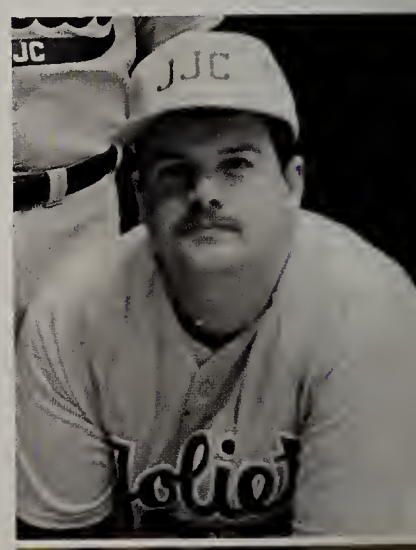
NOW

Since retirement, MacDougall and his wife of 45 years, Judy, spend much time as possible with their four grown children and eight grandchildren. He and Judy enjoy traveling. In the winter they travel to Florida and Mexico, and in the summer they spend time at their family cottage in Michigan. They have visited Lake Tahoe, Grand Tetons, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Cape Cod, Hilton Head, Scotland and Ireland.

Coach Wayne King, Jr.

THEN

Wayne King, Jr. was hired as Joliet Junior College's head baseball coach at the start of the 1986-1987 season. Prior to JJC, King attended Ohio University, where he was the starting catcher and earned Mid-America All-Conference honors. In 1995, King was named Joliet Junior College's Athletic Director. During his tenure as the Wolves head coach, he has led teams to three NJCAA national championships (1994, 2008, 2012), 11 NJCAA World Series appearances, 15 Region IV Division III Tournament championships and seven N4C titles. He has been voted Coach of the Year seven times. For the Wolves success in 1994, 2008 and 2012, King was named NJCAA Division III National Coach of the Year, Coach of the Year for Division III World Series and District Coach of the Year. King was also inducted into the Region IV Hall of Fame by his fellow Region IV athletic directors as an administrator/coach in 2004. In 2009, King was inducted into the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. In October of 2009, the JJC baseball field was also officially named Wayne L. King, Jr. Field.





NOW

In 2012, King reached 900 career victories. His current overall record is 978-613-1, making King first in wins for the NJCAA Division III active all-time coaching record and 17th overall for all divisions. This year marks King's 29th season as head baseball coach at Joliet Junior College. King's wife Janine, of 33 years, has been a great supporter. Wayne and Janine have two children, a daughter Stacey and a son Kelsey. Wayne and Janine are both looking forward to a wonderful retirement...eventually.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The JJC Foundation raised $36,300 through the 2014 Sponsorship Campaign. The money raised will provide more scholarships and opportunities for JJC students. We thank the following participants for their investment in our students and the community.

Platinum Sponsors - $5,000 and above

Demonica Kemper Architects
ExxonMobil

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Kavanagh, Grumley & Gorbold, LLC
Low Voltage Solutions Inc.
Northern Illinois Steel
OEC Business Interiors, Inc.
Steelcase

Events at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual 5K Run and Walk
May 9
8:30 a.m. Wolves' Run Kids Race
9:30 a.m. 5K Run and Walk
jjc.edu/info/5K

34th Annual Alumni Brunch
June 7
11 a.m.
Joliet Junior College, Main Campus

For more information, call 815-280-2218

Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer.
For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Tuesday Shows – 7:00 p.m.

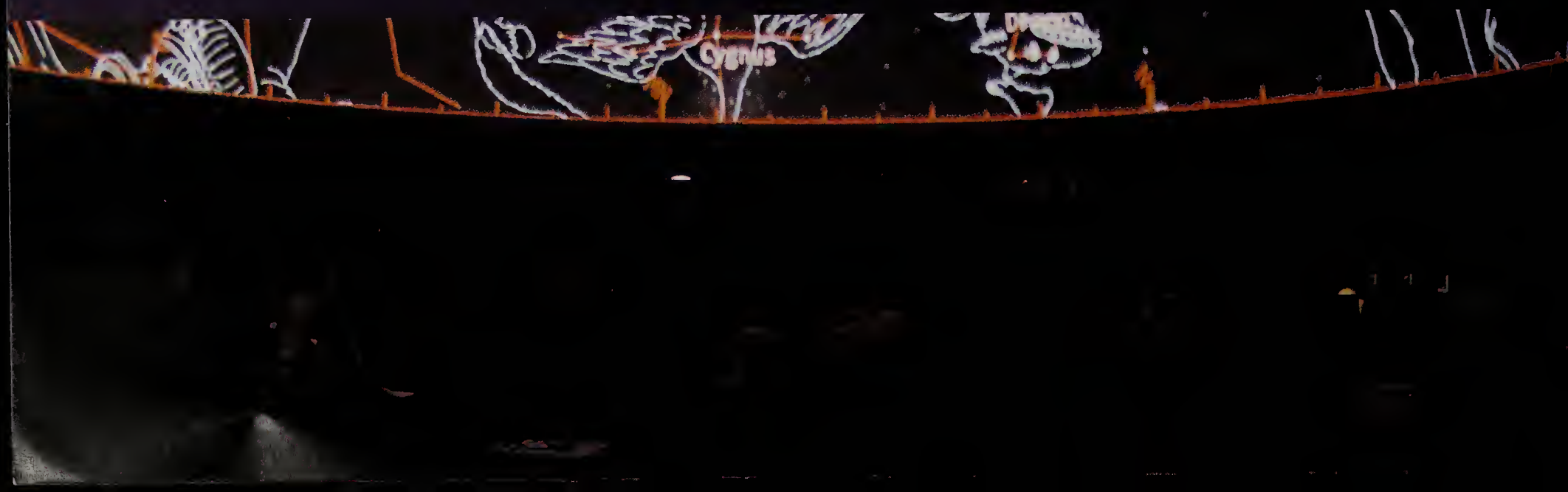
December 9	Story of the Christmas Star
January 6	Seasonal Skies
January 20	The Solar System
February 3	Asteroids and Comets
February 17	The Search for Intelligent Life in Space
March 3	Larry Cat in Space*
March 17	Seasonal Skies
March 31	Mars
April 14	Telescope Basics
April 28	Asteroids and Comets

Thursday Shows - 6:30 p.m.

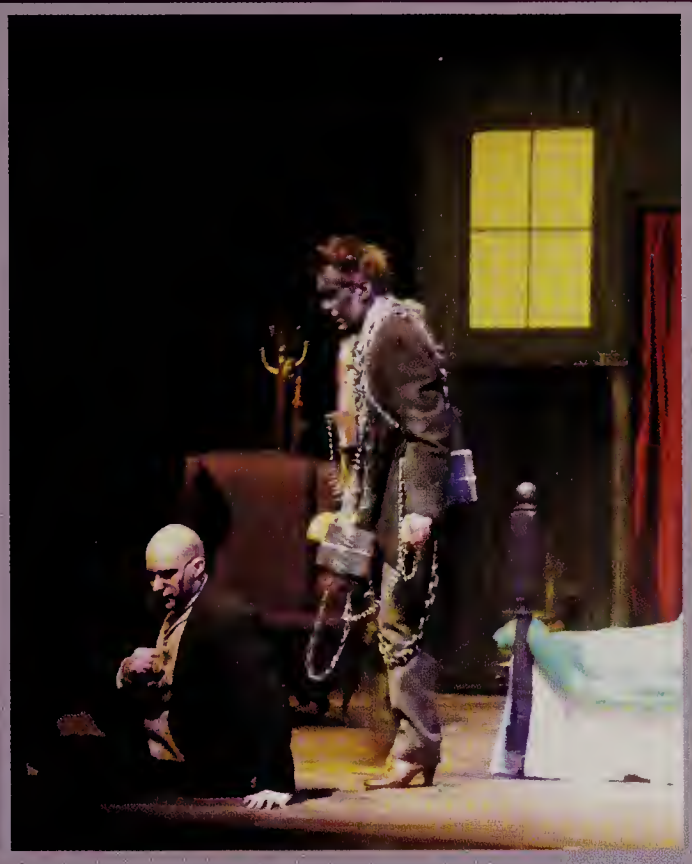
December 4	The X-Planets - Discovering other Earths
December 18	Story of the Christmas Star
January 15	Seasonal Skies
January 29	The X-Planets - Discovering other Earths
February 12	Humans and Robots in Space
February 26	Solar System
March 12	We Go to the Moon*
March 26	Seasonal Skies
April 9	Mars
April 23	Larry Cat in Space*

Sunday Holiday Show - 2:00 p.m.

December 14	Story of the Christmas Star









Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.
All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

Gallery Exhibition – Joliet Junior College Area High Schools
Monday, December 1, thru Friday, December 12

Jazz Band Fall Concert
Friday, December 5 – 7:30 pm

Community Band Fall Concert
Sunday, December 7 – 3:00 pm

MadriGala with the JJC Chamber Singers
Friday, December 12 – 7:30 pm

Carols and Chocolate Concert featuring the JJC Chorale
Sunday, December 14 – 3:00 pm

Guitar & Percussion Ensembles Combined Concert
Tuesday, December 16 – 7:30 pm

Student Recital
Wednesday, January 11 – 11:00 am

Gallery Exhibition – Side Entrance
Tuesday, January 20, thru Friday, February 13

Magnificent Metal IV: Brass and Organ Recital
St. Joseph Church
416 N. Chicago St.
Sunday, February 8 – 3:00 pm

Student Recital
Wednesday, February 25 – 11:00 am

Theatre Production – The Who's Tommy Book by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff
Thursday, March 5, thru Sunday, March 8

Gallery Exhibition – Career Favorites: Photographs by Bob Campbell
Monday, March 9, thru Thursday, April 2

Musical Viva – Giulio Draghi, piano
Sunday, March 15 – 3:00 pm

Student Recital
Wednesday, March 18 – 11:00 am

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, March 21 – 4:00 pm

To learn about more events at JJC, visit
www.jjc.edu/info/more-events.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**

Liripa Buki, a 2011 graduate, believes that JJC helped create a pathway for him to complete his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and his MBA, enabling him to earn a hospital management position. To give back to the JJC community, Liripa serves on the JJC Alumni Board.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

College of First Choice

Students who made JJC their higher education destination



SPRING 2015



Wear the Wolf!

Show Your School Spirit

This spring, show your school spirit by donning the latest JJC spirit wear. Check out this year's new arrivals, from comfy hoodies and sweat pants, to name-brand athletic apparel and more! With so many styles to choose from, you're sure to find the perfect item for the alumnus in your family.



Visit the JJC Bookstore on Main Campus or bkstr.com/jolietjuniorstore/home to see JJC's latest line of spirit wear.

Mention this ad in store, or use code 'CONNECTIONS' online to receive 20% off your purchase through October 31, 2015.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

CONTENTS



LPN Certification for Army Medics

JJC is the first community college in Illinois to offer this special program for veterans who have completed their medical corpsman training.



College of First Choice

Students and alumni who made JJC their first choice for a college education share how the institution shaped their lives.



Beyond Borders: Global Connections

With students from around the world coming to JJC and local students participating in study abroad trips, increasing global perspectives are enriching the JJC community.



2014 Annual Report

Review of financials from FY 2014 for the college and the JJC Foundation.



JJC Partners with Google 360 for Virtual Campus Tour

The tour allows visitors to virtually walk the halls of JJC and view it's state-of-the-art-facilities – all from the comfort of their homes.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,
As is our tradition, this spring edition of Connections Magazine features the Joliet Junior College Annual Report as well as the JJC Foundation's 2014 Annual Report. The unwavering support we receive from our students, from our dedicated staff, and from our communities truly underscore the successes you will see highlighted in the following pages.

Our college budget continues to be driven by strategic investments in student success and support initiatives, campus infrastructure, and technology. I hope you'll see evidence of these investments as you read the following stories of students who made JJC their first choice for their postsecondary education.

Did you know that JJC will celebrate its 115th year in 2016? We look forward to celebrating that wonderful milestone with you. In the meantime, take time to read this month's From the Archives column which explores the interesting history of our college's name.

As I complete my third year at Joliet Junior College, I am proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to our bright future.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for postsecondary education.

Information is subject to change.

In the Fall 2014 edition, Volume 6, Issue 4, Cindy Jacobson's name was accidentally omitted from the list of contributors. We apologize for the error.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

When we chose "***JJC – The College of First Choice***" as the theme for this issue of Connections, I immediately thought of Kailyn Harris and her family. Kailyn has been the student representative on the Alumni Board for the past two years. She is active in clubs, student government, and the Fine Arts Program. The first time I met Kailyn, she shared with me that her mom, Mildred, and siblings, Quentin, Keila, and Leila all attended JJC. Immediately, I knew Kailyn was happy to come here for an education and follow in their footsteps. She was truly proud to be here.

We often forget how important community colleges are to the communities in which we live. To our residents, we are known for providing a convenient, affordable and quality education for our students. And, most important, we are often the ***first choice*** for education for those reasons! Kailyn recently shared with me that JJC was the first choice for her family; it provided a great foundation for their education, resulted in many supportive and lifelong relationships with peers, faculty and staff, and created an enriched and diverse learning experience.

I am excited that Kailyn will walk the stage next month to earn her degree from JJC. I have seen her grow as a student, leader and musician. I know that Kailyn's first choice prepared her for the next level of education, and that she will do amazing things!

Was JJC your first choice? Visit www.jjc.edu/info/alumni to reconnect today and share your JJC story!

When I made a choice to go to college, my ***first choice*** was JJC, too. I was able to stay close to my family and get a great education that prepared me for the next step in my educational journey, the University of St. Francis. As I write this, I am preparing to leave JJC for a new career opportunity. Once again, I will be headed to the University of St. Francis for the next step in my career. As I say goodbye, I wish the college and each of you a bright future. My time at JJC has been a wonderful learning experience and the many people I have crossed paths with have made it extra special.

Best,

Amanda Quinn
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

JJC BECOMES FIRST ILLINOIS COLLEGE TO PROVIDE LPN CERTIFICATION FOR

MILITARY MEDICS





By Samantha Ritz

Michelle Mondia of Hoffman Estates has worked as a medic in the Air Force National Guard for the past 18 years: she's been deployed on peacekeeping missions, participated in projects such as Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003, and has worked on a health education mission with the Dakota Indian Tribe, teaching members the dangers of transmittable diseases.

She knew when she entered the military in the late 1990s that she wanted to help others, and in turn, took an aptitude test that assigned her to be trained as a medic. Since then, she's been using real-world skills through her work in the National Guard – but she can't use these same skills professionally in the civilian world because she doesn't have a degree or certificate.

"Being able to give back has been enjoyable in the military because you're helping your fellow air men and women and soldiers," Mondia said. "Depending on where you get deployed or where you work in the hospital, you get trained all the way to the advanced level in the military, functioning almost as a paramedic. Practicing nursing in the civilian world not only helps medics transition to their new lives, but it benefits the community to have these trained professionals in the field."

But entering a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree program in order to become a nurse can be difficult for some post-military veterans.

Since 2012, Mondia has waited for Illinois to establish a program that would make obtaining a certificate easier than going through two to four years of college – a program that could transfer her military credits into educational credits.

In 2015, Joliet Junior College became the first college in Illinois to offer such a program, called the Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse certification. Mondia heard about this initiative at JJC from her veterans' affairs educational advisers.

"I'm from the north suburbs and none of the colleges in my area are offering this, so that's why Joliet Junior College was my first choice," she said. "It's so nice because the classes I took in the military can be recognized and transferred as credits now. JJC has made earning my certificate so much easier."

> "I am extremely proud that JJC, the nation's first public community college, is the first in Illinois to offer this program for our veterans."
>
> Mary Beth Luna

JJC's program allows veterans who have completed the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program within the last five years to earn certificates as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) – and to do so in as little as eight weeks.

The intensive, eight-week curriculum, designed through a cooperative effort among JJC, the College of DuPage, and Illinois Central College in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Governors Association for Veterans, addresses differences between the METC Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program and a practical nursing program as determined by the Illinois Nurse Practice Act.

Veterans can utilize available veteran education benefits like the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Illinois Veterans' Grant, and others to cover eligible program expenses.

Upon successful completion of the certificate, veterans will be prepared to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) examination to become an LPN.

"I've heard so many great things about JJC's nursing program. I'm so excited that I'm back to learning," Mondia said. "It definitely helps that I have a background in the medical field, but I think in the end, JJC is going to be helpful for me when it comes to getting a nursing education. These programs have a great set up. A program like this allows you to have a short period of time to improve yourself and use the skills that you have and all the experience you have gained. Then, once you get in and get started, it gets you on a path to start improving and maybe even begin an RN program."

JJC became the first college in Illinois to offer this certification when the program began on March 9, but the program will soon be offered at other local institutions later this year, such as the College of DuPage and Illinois Central College.

"I am extremely proud that JJC, the nation's first public community college, is the first in Illinois to offer this program for our veterans," said Dean of Health Professions and Emergency Services Mary Beth Luna. "This course will fill in the gaps of their rigorous military training to make them eligible to sit for the practical nurse licensure exam. I am so pleased that we are able to respond to the educational needs of our veterans and provide them a seamless transition to a civilian career."

JJC has always made it a priority to help veterans achieve their goals. In addition to this program, JJC offers a Veterans Resource Center for studying, computer access and group meetings, and a Veterans Alliance Club.



PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

For more information about programs for veterans at JJC, or to complete an application for the Military Medical Corpsman to Licensed Practical Nurse certification, visit www.jjc.edu/info/medic-to-pn.

Those interested can also contact JJC Department Chair of Nursing Mary Magruder for additional questions at 815-280-2438 or mmagrude@jjc.edu.



COLLEGE OF FIRST CHOICE

STUDENTS WHO MADE JJC THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION DESTINATION

By Rachel Rose

The community college as a catch-all, pragmatic solution for students from every different background and life path imaginable is a common perception in the United States. They are seen as serving a utilitarian function: the default option for those who can't afford a four-year university or can't get into one due to mediocre grades; or perhaps a last-resort resource for finding a new job when all other options are exhausted. Students are generally thought to arrive at the doors of their local community college by accident, happenstance, or bad luck.

But a community college as a student's first choice for pursuing higher education? The intentional, primary destination of an ambitious, high-achieving student to shape and mold them for a future career? A college where dreams are realized? Yes, yes, and yes. It can be all those things, as the following stories illustrate.

Joliet Junior College has a history of pioneering and innovation of which there is good reason to be proud. It is the nation's first community college, formed in 1901 as the brainchild of William Rainey Harper, president of the University of Chicago, and J. Stanley Brown, superintendent of Joliet Township High School. Its famous alumni include John C. Houbolt, a NASA pioneer who pushed for the use of the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous (LOR), without which the 1969 moon landing would not have happened. The college was instituting sustainable practices in the 1970s and 80s long before sustainability was trendy, such as updating lighting and heating systems with the most energy-conservative systems possible and pursuing grants to do energy audits.

JJC is proud to have been the college of choice for thousands upon thousands of students over the past century: preparing them for their futures, whether that may be joining the workforce immediately, or continuing their education at another institution.

The college can even boast being the first choice for students from other countries.



Marty's Story

Norway native Inge-Martin Seim Tverborgvik came to America in 2010 to attend high school in Minooka as a foreign-exchange student, during which time he forged a close bond with his host family and several friends he met. He also became familiar with the Midwestern culture and local life, and learned about JJC and how community colleges worked in the United States.

"When attending high school in Minooka, I observed classmates describe JJC as "High School 2.0" and use similar negative connotations, implying that students going to JJC could not get in anywhere else." Tverborgvik said.

But he was impressed with JJC.

"The only argument I could see for taking freshman and sophomore year classes at a four-year institution that I find credible is those who want the full college experience of living in a dorm-type situation. Community colleges and four-year institutions have to adhere to the same standards set by the state of Illinois."

And so, instead of returning to Europe where he could have attended any number of prestigious and affluent universities, Tverborgvik decided he would return to Illinois to begin his college experience at JJC.

He joined the International Students Club on campus. He pushed himself to take a math class every semester so that he could strengthen his math skills, which had never been a favorite subject of his. He took advantage of tutoring resources, and enjoyed being challenged in his business and English classes. He embraced every opportunity he could while at JJC.

Following his graduation in May 2014, Tverborgvik transferred to Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Did he ever find himself wishing he had started there? Absolutely not, he says.

"In no way, shape, or form do I regret choosing JJC as the first step in my college career. I found it to be an institution full of dedicated staff and educators who teach and guide students at very high standards," he said. "I also had the pleasure and honor of benefiting from several great work experiences and leadership opportunities the college offers."

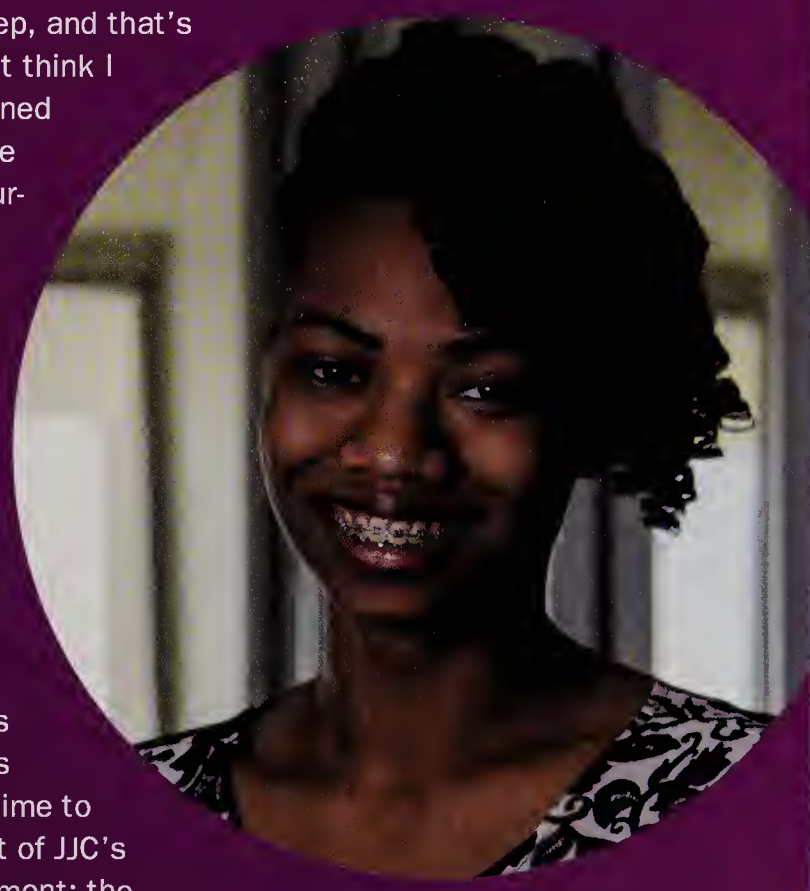
Kailyn's Story

Though they arrived at JJC from very different paths and have different interests, Kailyn Harris, a homeschooled student from Joliet, knew JJC was her first choice for college, just like Tverborgvik. Though for her, it wasn't a conscious decision she made at a particular point in time, but rather was a pathway she always knew she would take, since she had family members who attended JJC before her and loved their experiences.

"The reason JJC was my first choice was because the school was tried and proven by three of my siblings and mother," she said. "It seemed like the logical choice for my education since I was homeschooled. I needed to be introduced into a classroom setting and JJC was the ideal place to be. It's 15 minutes away and in a familiar environment. Now I am ready to move on and am confident in my ability to survive the university life."

Harris is a bright, ambitious and curious young woman with aspirations of writing music for films. And she knew that the right place for her to begin working on that dream was JJC, where she could stay close to home and study in the music and business programs the college offers.

"I wish more students realized what a wealth of resources and activities JJC has for them," she said. "Everything I've been involved with has prepared me for transferring. I've had to focus on keeping my GPA up and being ready in every way possible for that next step, and that's discipline I don't think I would have learned if I had just gone straight to a four-year college."



Discipline is something the 19-year-old seems to have already learned quite well. Besides maintaining a full class load of 19 credit hours this semester, Harris has also found time to be the president of JJC's Student Government; the president of Sigma Delta Mu and Alpha Mu Gamma, JJC's foreign language honors societies; join Phi Theta Kappa and the Honors Program; participate in the music departments extracurricular activities; and play piano, sing in the choir, and manage social media for her church.

Brian's Story

Brian Herrera remembers speaking to a group of primarily Latino high school students last year at a conference hosted by JJC's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. He told them of his personal journey from undocumented high school student with no clear direction for his future to committed college student with ambitions of becoming a lawyer.



Afterwards, many students were so inspired by his story that they wanted his photo and autograph. "It was kind of unreal, I told them I was nobody," Herrera said. But they told me I had inspired them to go to college. I had showed them it was possible." Herrera says he would not be who he is today if it weren't for JJC.

He describes his family life growing up in Chicago as "just surviving, not succeeding." Life was hard, and even dangerous. His family moved to Crest Hill to escape the gang and drug violence that was taking over their neighborhood.

While attending Lockport High School, he learned about JJC, but never dreamed he could go there. He was an undocumented student, having arrived in the country as an infant with his family.

His mother, Martha Rivas, dreamed of her children going to college, but she too did not know if it was possible. That all changed when they met Patricia Santoyo from JJC's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs at a resource fair at his family's church, Monte Carmelo Catholic Church in Joliet.

"Patricia showed my mom and me that it really was still possible for me to go to JJC, despite being undocumented," Herrera said. "She showed me that just because there were barriers in my path didn't mean I couldn't go to college and better myself. JJC was definitely my first and only choice for college once I learned it was possible."

Herrera plans to become a lawyer someday, and is considering his options for transfer schools. In the meantime, he has no shortage of activities to keep him busy. Besides taking classes, he participates in student government, the Latinos Unidos student club, and he serves as student trustee on the college's board of trustees.

When asked what he would say to those who don't consider JJC a first-choice type of school, Herrera pauses and thinks. "It's just – it's just simply not true," he finally says. "JJC is, to me, a world of opportunity. You meet people here who have goals and dreams and who want you to succeed. I believe everything happens for a reason, and I was meant to come here. This school changed my life."

Scott and Marianne's Story

As a first choice college for those looking to prepare for a specific career, JJC's excellent reputation, particularly in flagship programs such as culinary arts, is well established. Career and technical programs are taught by professionals who blend theoretical, textbook knowledge with years of real-world experience in their respective industries.

In the 1980s, two young aspiring chefs decided that JJC was their first choice. Newlyweds Scott and Marianne Hunnel knew of JJC's reputation as an excellent culinary program with the best chef instructors in the Chicagoland area, and made the effort to attend JJC despite living out of district.

"Our JJC experience exceeded our expectations," said Marianne Hunnel. "Having the opportunity to learn from world-class chefs who had both educational experience and hands-on experience was invaluable. We were able to learn the basic fundamentals of cooking in the classroom and apply this knowledge cooking in the cafeteria and Renaissance Center with the direction and incredible leadership of these chefs."

Making JJC their first choice for college shaped the trajectory of the Hunnels' careers and lives. During their last year of college, at Marianne's suggestion, they both interviewed with a Disney recruiter who had come to interview soon-to-be culinary graduates. The next thing they knew, they were packing up to head south because they had both been offered jobs with Disney in Orlando, Fla.

Today, Scott is the chef de cuisine at Disney World's five-diamond restaurant, Victoria and Albert's, a position he has held since 1995. Marianne is the area manager of Epcot's International Food and Wine Festival.

"Both of us had a high level of self-motivation, but many opportunities may not have happened without attending a community college," said Marianne, reflecting on the choices that got her and her husband to where they are today. "JJC not only helped us sharpen the culinary skills that we already had, but JJC also helped us navigate the culinary network which is so important when pursuing a career."

While these are just a few snapshots of students who made JJC their first choice, there are perhaps thousands more who could say the same. Each student's story is unique. Each person's path to JJC is shaped by a distinctive set of experiences. Each one's plan for their future is different. But JJC is the common thread in their stories: the institution where they all found the learning, training and shaping they needed to be successful in their futures. The college that was their first choice.

Marianne and Scott Hunnel

Photo credit: Copyright 2015, The Walt Disney Company



JJC students visit a mountain shrine in Japan during a study abroad trip in summer 2013.

BEYOND BORDERS:

Making Global Connections at JJC

By Rachel Rose

In the fall of 2010, Vietnamese college student Hoang Nguyen got on a plane headed halfway around the world: his ultimate destination was Joliet Junior College. After spending a year studying in Australia, he was looking for a different study abroad opportunity, and after learning that JJC was the first community college in the U.S., he decided that was where he wanted to go.

It was a huge change for him, but Nguyen soon decided that he had made a great choice. He found his classmates to be friendly, his professors helpful, and his English improving. He also began to grow from his experiences, both from attending JJC and living on his own.

JJC as a destination for international students, and as a wealth of study abroad opportunities for local students, is not the first thing that comes to mind for many when considering their local community college. In fact, those ideas probably do not even make the list.

But that is beginning to change, thanks to the hard work of faculty and staff.

"International students are learning that JJC is an ideal destination for them to experience an American college setting for a reasonable cost," said Dr. Debra Daniels. "We are also working to expand study abroad opportunities for our local students. Having broader international experiences – whether through meeting a classmate from a different country or spending a semester abroad – is an invaluable component of education we want to make available to all of our students."

In the spring 2015 semester, seven new international students from Brazil, India, Israel, Philippines, Timor Leste and Vietnam are attending JJC, thanks to the efforts of International Student Services Coordinator Dayna Crabb.

Over the past year and a half, for the first time ever, JJC was represented at recruitment fairs internationally. Crabb has traveled to Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand to visit high schools and attend university fairs, connecting with students looking for American colleges to attend. She also connects with international students via Skype and webinars. She makes sure they know that JJC is a competitive option to consider among U.S. colleges.

Growing JJC's international student population has many benefits, she said.

"For the students coming here, it's exciting that JJC can provide an education in the U.S. and help them develop

skill sets they can take back to their countries," Crabb said. "From a local perspective, there is a big impact on students, faculty and staff. Our local students are now making friends with other students from all over the world, and getting to know about their cultures. They are all learning so much from each other."

JJC is growing its international programs in other ways, too.

Last fall, JJC was one of seven community colleges in the nation and one of only four colleges in Illinois to receive the International Studies and Foreign Language Education (UISFL) grant from the Department of Education.

The $120,641 grant will allow the college to plan, develop, and carry out programs that strengthen and improve international studies and foreign language courses at the college. The first year of the grant will focus on Brazil, and pending congressional approval, additional funding for two more years of international programs is expected.

"International students are learning that JJC is an ideal destination for them to experience an American college setting for a reasonable cost."

Dr. Debra Daniels

"This grant allows JJC to continue its goal of bringing international opportunities to students so that they can become competitive in the global marketplace," said Tamara Ponzo Brattoli, professor of English and study abroad/international education coordinator. "It also offers JJC students and faculty several important benefits. Through it, we will be able to establish new study abroad options for our students in Brazil, Morocco and Taiwan. For students who cannot travel overseas, this grant will allow them to access international content in coursework and international programming on campus. In addition, the grant focuses on the teaching of U.S. Department of State-identified critical languages. Our students will have the opportunity to study Portuguese, Arabic, and Chinese—languages which are rarely taught in Illinois high schools."

Six JJC faculty will visit Brazil in March 2015. They will spend three days in Mogi Mirim, Brazil, on cultural exchange with faculty from Faculdades de Tecnologia do Estado de São Paulo (FATEC Mogi Mirim). They will also travel to Sao Paulo, the Atlantic rainforest, and visit a pacified favela community in Rio de Janeiro.

In August, students led by JJC faculty will spend approximately three weeks in Brazil, earning JJC credit while visiting the same locations in Brazil as the faculty, but spending additional time in Mogi Mirim where they will interact with local college students from FATEC Mogi Mirim.



Hoang Nguyen of Vietnam came to JJC to study computer science.

JJC students aren't the only ones who will benefit from the grant. Students from Carl Sandberg College and Parkland College, which participate with JJC in a three-college consortium, will also be able to take advantage of this study abroad opportunity.

In additional to helping fulfill an institutional goal of broadening international study and student exchange opportunities, this grant plays a key role in the college's commitment to the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad program, pledging to double the number of students studying abroad over the next five years. JJC is one of 298 colleges and universities in the United States which have signed this pledge.

The college also offers a robust study abroad program for students, with summer and full semester opportunities available in Matsuyama, Japan; Seville, Spain; San Jose, Costa Rica; Dijon, France; Salzburg, Austria; Xi'an, China; Canterbury, England; Carlow, Ireland; and Salzburg, Austria. Additional destinations are frequently added.



JJC's International Student Services program hosted a Thanksgiving dinner last year for international students and their mentors.

JJC Receives $268,000 Endowment for Nursing Scholarships

By Samantha Ritz

The Joliet Junior College Nursing and Allied Health Department received a generous $268,000 endowment from the late Jeanette Wirt, which the college will use to provide scholarships to nursing students. According to Wirt's husband, Leon, she chose to donate the funds after having received excellent nursing care throughout a lengthy illness. Though she never attended JJC, she chose to create the endowment because she wanted to make a difference in the lives of student nurses and support their education.



From left: JJC Trustee Jeff May, JJC Foundation Board President Judith DeVriendt, Leon Wirt, and JJC President Debra Daniels at the dedication ceremony for the Jeanette Sing Wirt Nursing Skills Practice Room.

> "I am so impressed with this facility and I am taking so much pride in Jeanette's decision to donate to JJC's nursing department."
>
> Leon Wirt

JJC will use this endowment as a scholarship in Mrs. Wirt's name beginning in Fall 2015. JJC will grant a total of $11,000 for this scholarship to as many as 11 recipients per year.
In January 2015, the college welcomed Jeanette's husband, to campus to celebrate his wife's donation and to announce the newly dedicated "Jeanette Sing Wirt Nursing Skills Practice Room" in U-3004. Wirt met with current JJC nursing students, faculty, and other employees, and was also given a tour of the Health Professions Center, JJC's newest facility.

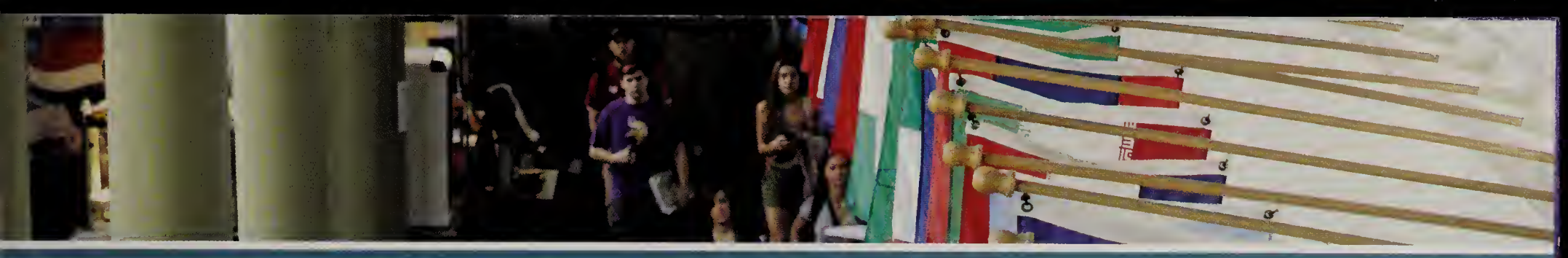
"I am so impressed with this facility and I am taking so much pride in Jeanette's decision to donate to JJC's nursing department," Mr. Wirt said. With a smile, he added that if Mrs. Wirt were there, she'd act very modestly, but she'd also be excited to meet the future nursing students who could benefit from her donation.

This is the largest endowment the Nursing and Allied Health Department has received in its history.





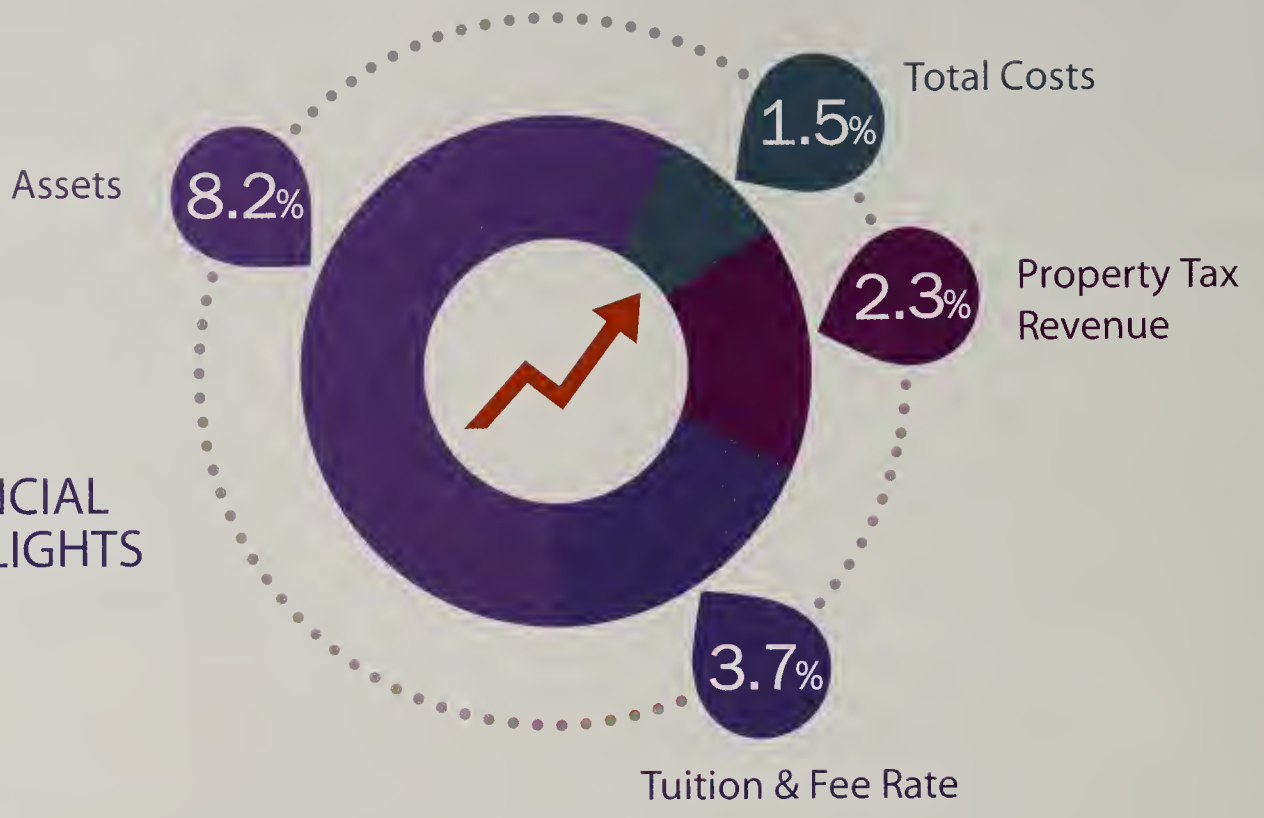
Leon Wirt met several JJC employees, nursing faculty, and students at the dedication ceremony.



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting JJC's well-being to the community we serve.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



The District's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net position increased 8.2% over the course of the year and new construction in the District increased property tax revenue by 2.3% in fiscal 2014.

Overall revenues were $146.4 million, $9.3 million more than expenses.

Total costs increased by approximately 1.5% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, the on-behalf pension contribution from the State of Illinois, depreciation and interest expenses.

Net tuition revenue was unchanged from the previous year. A decrease in credit hours generated was offset by a 3.7% increase in the tuition and fee rate.

JJC BY THE NUMBERS



DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

The increase in degrees and certificates awarded has increased since 2008.

32,089

STUDENTS ENROLLED

The number of students enrolled in credit or non-credit courses in 2012, representing an increase of almost 26 percent since 2008.

$795,000

The amount of scholarships students receive annually through the generous support of the JJC Foundation.



TOP 100

JJC's ranking by Community College Week for number of associate degrees granted.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2014	2013	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$104.3	$98.4	$5.9	6.0%
Capital Assest	190.0	174.2	15.8	9.1%
Non-current Assest	83.0	36.9	46.1	124.9%
Total Assets	377.3	309.5	67.8	21.9%
Current Liabilities	31.6	29.9	1.7	5.7%
Long-Term Liabilities	222.5	165.7	56.8	34.3%
Total Liabilities	254.1	195.6	58.5	29.9%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	42.1	42.7	(0.6)	-1.4%
Restricted	40.4	29.9	10.5	35.1%
Unrestricted	40.7	41.3	(0.6)	-1.5%
Total Net Assets	**$123.2**	**$113.9**	**$9.3**	**8.2%**

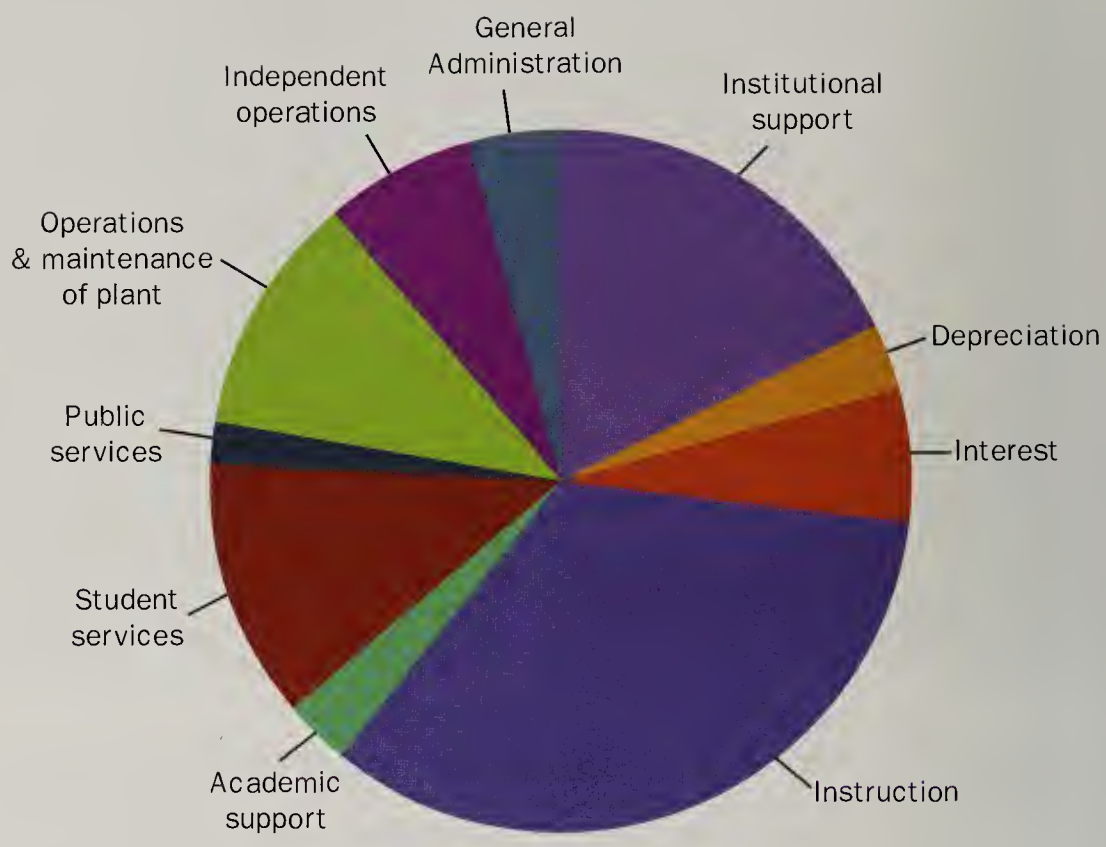
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $137.1 million. The district's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services which were $62.8 million or 45.8 percent of total expenses.

	2014	2013	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$39.6	$41.2	$(1.6)	-3.9%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(12.7)	(14.3)	(1.6)	-11.2%
Net Tuition & Fees	26.9	26.9	-	0.0%
Sales & Service Fees	8.9	9.3	(0.4)	-4.3%
Miscellaneous	1.1	1.8	(0.7)	-38.9%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	52.3	51.1	1.2	2.3%
State & Federal Sources	53.5	47.7	5.8	12.2%
Other	3.7	1.9	1.8	94.7%
Total Revenues	**$146.4**	**$138.7**	**$7.7**	**5.6%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	44.1	44.1	-	0.0%
Academic Support	3.5	3.5	-	0.0%
Student Services	13.4	13.7	(0.3)	-2.2%
Public Services	1.8	1.7	0.1	5.9%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	12.1	13.8	(1.7)	-12.3%
Independent Operations	9.2	9.5	(0.3)	-3.2%
General Administration	4.8	4.7	0.1	2.1%
Institutional Support	29.2	27.5	1.7	6.2%
Depreciation	7.9	6.5	1.4	21.5%
Interest	11.1	10.1	1.0	9.9%
Total Expenses	**$137.1**	**$135.1**	**$2.0**	**1.5%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$113.9**	**$110.3**		
End of Year	**$123.2**	**$113.9**		
Increase in Net Assets	**$9.3**	**$3.6**	**$5.7**	

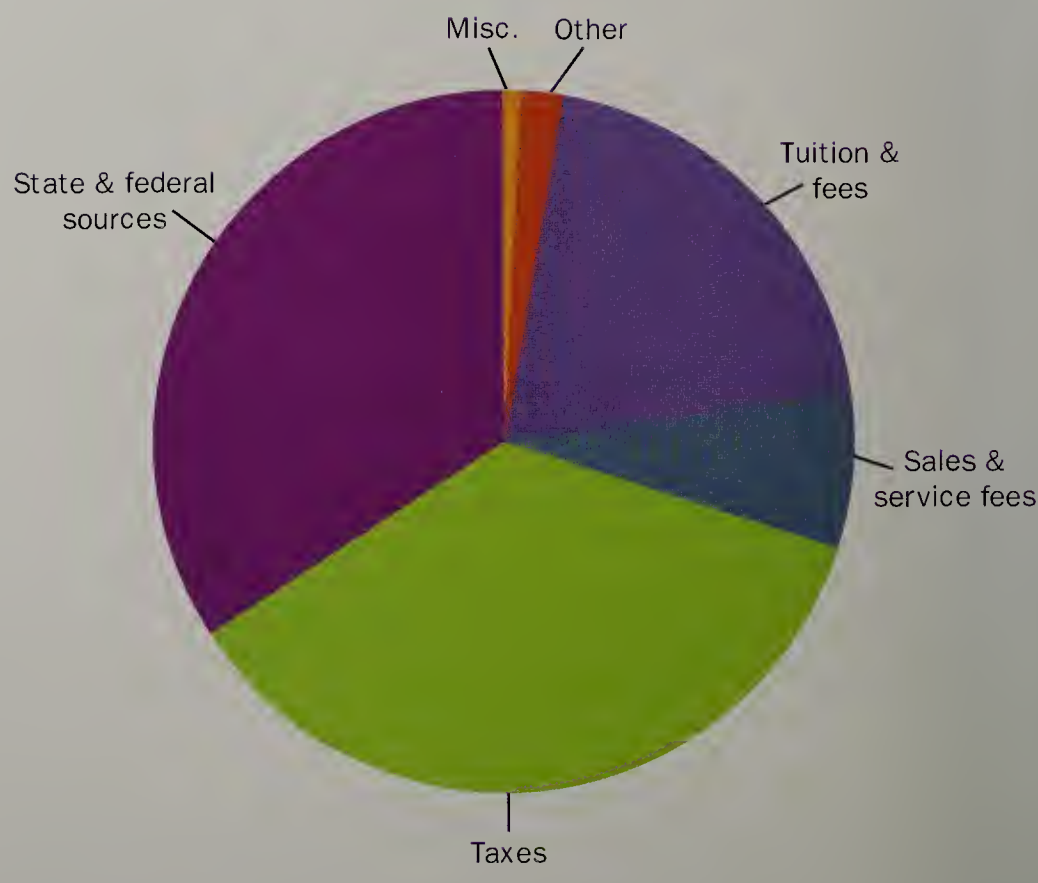
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2014

Instruction	**32%**
Academic Support	**3%**
Student Services	**10%**
Public Services	**1%**
Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**9%**
Independent Operations	**7%**
General Administration	**3%**
Institutional Support	**21%**
Depreciation	**6%**
Interest	**8%**



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2014

Tuition and Fees	**18%**
Miscellaneous	**1%**
Other	**2%**
Taxes	**36%**
Sales and Service Fees	**6%**
State and Federal Sources	**37%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Judith DeVriendt

Foundation President

I am proud to be serving as the 2015-2016 JJC Foundation President. Being a JJC Foundation Board member gives me the opportunity to be a part of a mission I strongly believe in; see the growth of the financial support that provides scholarships, programs and academic equipment to students and faculty; and witness the evolution of strong 501 (c)(3)organization that has a history of supporting the college's finances.

The JJC Foundation has 28 members who last year collectively provided over $58,000 in donations. Total assets have surpassed 21 million dollars with endowments reaching $11 million. The Foundation commits over one million dollars of support to the College annually. Each year the Awards For Excellence Program funds academic programs, educational equipment and continuing education for faculty.

As the largest community college Foundation in the State of Illinois, the JJC Foundation takes pride in applying gifts according to the donor's wishes and managing the assets of the portfolio with the help of Northern Trust.

If you would like to become a donor and invest in the education of our future leaders please use the envelope included in this magazine. Join me in supporting the students that attend the oldest community college in the United States.

To make a gift, contact JJC Foundation Executive Director Kristin Mulvey at kmulvey@jjc.edu or (815) 582-6532.

Sincerely,
Judith DeVriendt,
JJC Foundation President

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2014 and 2013]

	2014	2013
Total Current Assets	19,459,046	17,089,468
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,000
Total Assets	20,219,046	17,849,468
Total Current Liabilities	423,976	24,115
Total Net Assets	19,795,070	17,825,353
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	20,219,046	17,849,468

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2014 and 2013]

	2014	2013
Total Revenues	3,460,774	2,439,613
Total Expenses	1,491,057	1,204,443
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	17,825,353	16,590,183
End of Fiscal Year	19,795,070	17,825,353
Endowment	10,681,233	10,564,392
Investments	18,848,625	16,866,409
Annual Contributions	974,329	1,035,013
Scholarships Awarded	794,760	799,070

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JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901
FOUNDATION

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Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, visit **www.matchinggifts.com/jjc**.

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
Fax: (815) 280-6618

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
(815) 280-2353



Coach Kuhn Nominated to Hall of Fame, Earns 400th Win at JJC



By Rachel Rose

The 2014-2015 season got off to a great start for Joliet Junior College head basketball coach Joe Kuhn and the JJC men's basketball team. In addition to ending 2014 with a strong 12-2 record, Coach Kuhn was selected by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) to be inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, and earned his 400th win at JJC on Dec. 20 with a home game win against Moraine Valley Community College. The team ended their season in February with a 20-11 record.

"It's an honor to be selected for the Hall of Fame, and be recognized for the success that our program has had," said Kuhn. "A lot of people don't realize the work and time that goes into building a good team, and I couldn't have done it without my assistant coach Keith Kinzler, who has been with me my whole career at JJC. It's a team effort."

Kuhn will officially be inducted into the Hall of Fame during IBCA's annual ceremony in Bloomington, Ill. on May 2.

Kuhn has just completed his 18th season at JJC, during which time he's garnered a very impressive record. In addition to leading the Wolves to a 2010 NJCAA Division III National Championship, he has been named District Coach of the Year six times, has guided the Wolves to the national tournament six times (2011, 2010, 2008, 2005, 2004, 1998) and advanced to the national championship game three times (2010, 2008, 2005). Kuhn has coached fourteen All-Americans, seven N4C conference players of the year, and 33 all region players at JJC.

"Joe has done an outstanding job here at JJC," said JJC Director of Athletics Wayne L. King, Jr. "As a part-time coach, all the extra hours he has put in over the years have come back to reward him. I am happy for and proud of Joe; he is well deserved of this award."

Kuhn is optimistic that the team will continue the momentum they've built starting early in the season. "I like how our team is progressing this year," he said. "We still have a long way to go, but we are definitely enjoying what we've accomplished so far."

People Then and Now



Roxanne Munch

THEN Roxanne Munch came to JJC in 1976 as an adjunct instructor of English and speech straight from graduate school at Ohio State University. At the time, JJC's speech and theatre programs were housed in the English Department, so she taught a variety of courses and coached the JJC Forensics team for two years. She also performed in numerous JJC Theatre productions and has sung in the JJC Chorale for many years. She became a full-time instructor in 1988 and Department Chair in 2000. During her time as chair, the department grew from 16 to 26 full-time instructors, with new positions created to teach ESL/EAP curriculum. The philosophy program also experienced rapid growth while an extensive expansion of dual credit offerings of English 101 and 102 went from one high school to 18 sites. She participated in one faculty exchange and four U. S. Department of Education International Education grants that allowed her to travel and learn about higher education in England, China, India, Japan, and Jordan. In spring 2014, she served as Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences and was delighted to be the commencement speaker that May.

NOW Roxanne continues to sing in the JJC Chorale, JJC Chamber Singers, St. Mary Immaculate Adult Choir, and SMI Resurrection Choir. She remains in Plainfield, where she is conveniently close to her three children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and niece and great-nephew, and the two dogs and two cats seem happy to have more attention. She has returned to JJC to work part-time as a Dual Credit Specialist. She continues to travel extensively, with recent trips to Alaska and the Apulia region of Italy, the homeland of her mother. She tries hard to keep up on Facebook, loves online puzzles, and adores her Kindle.

Keith Vonhoff

THEN Chef Keith Vonhoff came to JJC in January of 1985. He was originally hired full time to teach the weekend culinary arts Program, where students could complete their core culinary arts credits on the weekend. This program included a Sunday brunch available for the general public to attend. Chef Vonhoff then focused on instructing sophomore students and was instrumental in the creation of "Chef's Table," the student-run restaurant now known as "Saveur." He developed the Product fabrication course in the culinary arts Program. He spent his final years at JJC teaching freshman students.



NOW Since Chef Vonhoff's retirement in May 2014, he has spent a lot of time on the beach in Fort Myers, Florida. He has been busy working on his tan and watching the dolphins swim in the Gulf of Mexico. When he is not in Florida, he continues to teach the Food sanitation certificate course through JJC's Corporate and Community Services Department.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:
IT'S ALL IN A NAME

By Amy Chellino

Historically, Joliet Junior College has been a symbol of personal growth, education and opportunity in our region. While the college has gone through many changes since its creation in 1901, the name has remained the same despite attempts to change it over the years.

As explained by historian and professor emeritus Robert Sterling in his book Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College, as the JJC district grew to encompass nearby towns, a group of students requested the name be changed to reflect the various communities in the district in the late 1960s. There were several possibilities for a new name: Five Rivers, Joliet Dresden, Louis Joliet, Pioneer, J. Stanley Brown and Joliet Community College. A petition was circulated that 'Joliet' remain in the name and 3,382 signatures were collected. Board president William Glasscock wanted the name to remain unchanged, and at a January 12, 1970 board meeting, he stated, "When Junior grows up and has gray hair, the neighbors still call him Junior." A motion was passed to keep the name as Joliet Junior College.

In the 1980s and 1990s, other attempts were made to change Joliet Junior College's name. At the time, many junior colleges were dropping the 'junior' or replacing it with 'community'. In 1987, a logo was designed that highlighted 'Joliet' and 'College' but diminished the 'junior' part of the name by decreasing the size. In a Blazer article from October, 17, 1995, Professor Dale Layman launched a campaign to change the name to either Joliet College or Joliet Pioneer College stating that the word junior was "demeaning and derogatory." However, the consensus proved that the change in name would not influence enrollment and a poll of students and faculty showed that the name Joliet Junior College was a reflection of the purpose of the school and its history and, essentially, a name that holds honor because of all it stands for.

The college is proud of its heritage and the Joliet Junior College name is part of the history that brought it from being housed in Joliet Township High School to the state of the art, green campus we are privileged to experience today. We all have a story about how Joliet Junior College became a part of our personal histories. Whether attending JJC due to proximity, for the degree or certificate offerings, or for the strong academic foundation and transfer resources available to students looking to continue on to a four-year institution, Joliet Junior College holds an important place in our lives, region, state and country, and serves as a prominent reminder of progress and success. As the first junior college, JJC has given opportunities to thousands of people and created a population of intelligent, skilled and service minded citizens. The name Joliet Junior College is a part of a history we are all privileged to be connected to.

1936



1941



1950



1958

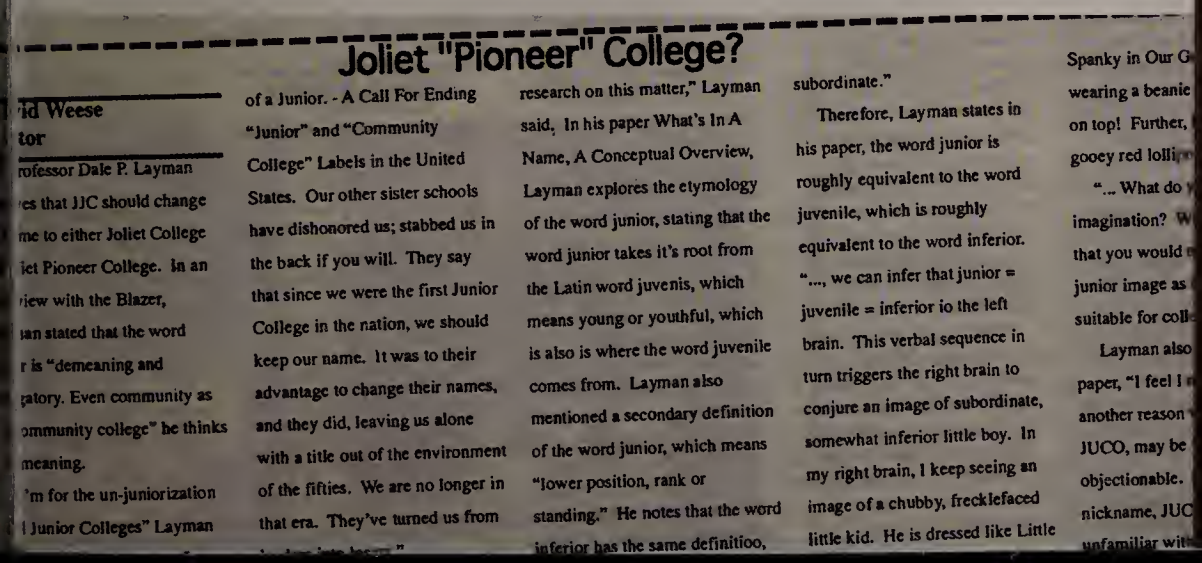


1964



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Joliet "Pioneer" College?

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meaning.
'm for the un-juniorization
Junior Colleges" Layman

of a Junior. - A Call For Ending "Junior" and "Community College" Labels in the United States. Our other sister schools have dishonored us; stabbed us in the back if you will. They say that since we were the first Junior College in the nation, we should keep our name. It was to their advantage to change their names, and they did, leaving us alone with a title out of the environment of the fifties. We are no longer in that era. They've turned us from

research on this matter," Layman said. In his paper What's In A Name, A Conceptual Overview, Layman explores the etymology of the word junior, stating that the word junior takes it's root from the Latin word juvenis, which means young or youthful, which is also is where the word juvenile comes from. Layman also mentioned a secondary definition of the word junior, which means "lower position, rank or standing." He notes that the word inferior has the same definitioo,

subordinate."

Therefore, Layman states in his paper, the word junior is roughly equivalent to the word juvenile, which is roughly equivalent to the word inferior. "..., we can infer that junior = juvenile = inferior io the left brain. This verbal sequence in turn triggers the right brain to conjure an image of subordinate, somewhat inferior little boy. In my right brain, I keep seeing an image of a chubby, freckleface little kid. He is dressed like Little

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The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

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News Briefs



Trustee Jeff May, Trustee Susan Klen, Former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, and Board Chair Andy Mihelich after Quinn's announcement of a $10 million state investment toward completion of the college's City Center Campus in October 2014.

JJC Receives $10 Million State Grant for City Center Campus Completion

JJC received a $10 million state investment last fall to help finish ongoing construction of the new downtown Joliet Junior College City Center Campus. The state grant was announced at a press conference at the City Center by former Governor Pat Quinn.

Quinn made the announcement at the new site, which will offer increased space for key college programs including workforce development, adult education, and the nationally-renowned culinary arts program.

"We are thrilled to receive this money. This support from our governor and our state indicates a true understanding of the importance of our mission, which is to provide access to quality and affordable education," Dr. Debra Daniels, JJC president, said. "In addition, we believe this is a wonderful investment in downtown Joliet and Will County, and will benefit generations to come."

The Governor's Illinois Jobs Now! capital construction program will provide $10 million to help finish the interior work on the 96,000 square-foot, six-story building at 235 North Chicago Street in downtown Joliet. The college has completed exterior work on the building, and once the interior work is finished the facility will be the new home of the college's workforce development, adult education, and renowned culinary arts programs. In addition to multiple commercial-style teaching kitchens, the building will include a restaurant, student dining area, library, general classrooms, and office space. The project should be complete in 2016.

"Joliet Junior College has been preparing students for lucrative careers for many years," Governor Quinn said. "The City Center campus will allow the college to reach even more people and turn even more diplomas into paychecks."

The City Center campus is a $58 million project that includes funding from the state, the college, and a 2008 referendum. The campus is designed to achieve a minimum of LEED Silver certification, a testament to its energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly design.

Reflejos Newspaper Honors JJC with Excellence in Education Award

Thanks to the votes and nominations from Reflejos readers, Joliet Junior College was honored with the Reflejos Bilingual Journal's 2014 "Reflecting Excellence" award in education in a special ceremony in November 2014. Awards are given to institutions and businesses that are outstanding in their contributions to the Latino community. JJC was only one of five colleges to receive the education award.

"I am extremely honored and proud that the readers of Reflejos chose JJC to receive this award," said Vice President of Student Development Dr. Yolanda Isaacs. "It is a reflection of the high quality services and programs we provide to help our students succeed, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and faculty."

In addition to providing students with an affordable education, JJC's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs



Latino Student Support Specialist Martha Villegas Miranda, Student Trustee Brian Herrera and Director of Multicultural Student Affairs Michelle Roman-Garcia accepted the Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Award on behalf of the college.

offers bilingual services, academic guidance and resources such as Peer Mentors, a service that gives first-year transitional students one-on-one time with current students who can provide support and encouragement.

Latino Student Support Specialist Martha Villegas Miranda, Student Trustee Brian Herrera and Director of Multicultural Student Affairs Michelle Roman-Garcia accepted the Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Award on behalf of the college.



Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services faculty and staff pictured from left to right: Charlotte Garrabrant, Courtney DeBoer, Audrey Finkel, John Ross, Duane Stonich, Kevin Teper.

JJC Fire Science Program Nationally Recognized

The Joliet Junior College Fire Science Technology program was nationally recognized with a Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) certificate in October 2014. This acknowledgement means JJC's program met the standards established by FESHE professional development committees and the National Fire Academy. (NFA).

JJC's program was also recognized for being only one of two programs in Illinois that offers an associate degree in fire science technology.

"This certificate allows our degree to be recognized nationally by fire departments in other states," said Duane Stonich, coordinator of the fire science technology program. "After graduating from JJC, many of our students go on to Southern Illinois University. Since SIU is also recognized with this certificate, this allows our students to have a seamless transfer to SIU to obtain a bachelor's in fire management. JJC is a perfect start for a student interested in the fire science field."

The JJC Fire Science Technology program is coordinated with the Illinois State Fire Marshal Office and has the support of area mayors, city managers, and fire district trustees. JJC has offered a fire science associate degree since 1970.

Graduates of the program have gone on to professional careers in the fire service industry and emergency medical services.

Celebrating the Gift of an Education, One Sip at a Time

In December 2014, JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels hosted the annual President's Holiday Tea. The social event encouraged female scholarship recipients and their respective donors to interact with one another on a personal level, nurturing existing relationships and cultivating new ones. More than 40 women attended the Holiday Tea, including alumni, members of the Board of Trustees and members of the Foundation Board.

In total, more than 20 scholarships were represented, with recipients from a variety of disciplines such as nursing, technology and culinary arts. At the event both traditional and non-traditional student recipients were able to share their personal stories with donors, and thank them for their generous gifts.

One donor-recipient pair connected over the challenges of single parenthood, and still keep in touch today. Once a single mother herself, the donor understood the hardships of caring for a family, while attending college. She established a scholarship specifically for other single parents to help offset the cost of continuing their education, enabling them to pursue their academic goals and create better lives for their families.

In addition to donor and recipient recognition, the event featured the works of talented JJC students – including colorful floral centerpieces from the horticulture program, decadent pastries from culinary program, and the elegant piano stylings of a fine arts student.

"The Holiday Tea is an excellent way to connect scholarship recipients with their donors, and help foster valuable relationships," said Executive Director of Resource Development, Kristin Mulvey. "Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to support the financial needs of JJC students and support their continued student success."



Donor Dr. Carolyn Engers and scholarship recipient Naomi Holcomb share tea at the holiday event.

GOOGLE 360

JJC and Google Partner to Create a Virtual Campus Tour



Joliet Junior College's A-Building, captured using drone technology.

By Michelle Nagy

Earlier this year, Joliet Junior College partnered with Google to create a new way for students and the community to explore JJC's renovated Main Campus. Using drone and mobile imaging technology, the life-like tour is an extension of Google Earth and allows visitors to virtually walk the halls of JJC and view its state-of-the-art facilities in a 360-degree-rotational fashion – all from the comfort of their homes.

"At JJC, we are always looking for new and innovative ways to support students and the community. We are thrilled to be the first college in the area to offer a Google-supported virtual tour. We understand that busy schedules don't always allow for physical campus visits – so we hope that the virtual tour will serve as the next best thing for those individuals," said Director of Marketing and Creative Services Mike Hernandez.

The virtual tour showcases more than 20 locations around Main Campus, from facilities, to administrative offices to classrooms. Visitors can tap into their creative potential in the fine arts, music technology and culinary classrooms; get their engines revving in the automotive technology classrooms; reconnect with nature on the Veterans Memorial Bridge, and much more.

Accessible on various digital devices, the tour is also a great way for current students to familiarize themselves with the campus and explore the amenities and services available to them. The tour is also helpful for potential students and community members that are interested in checking out recent campus renovations, or are looking to pursue an education at JJC.

"We want visitors to see that in addition to offering a first-rate education, JJC has something to offer everyone









The Google 360 tour allows visitors to explore JJC buildings and key areas on Main Campus, including the veterinary technology area, nursing area, welding lab, and natural science classrooms.

in the community, from cutting-edge classrooms to top-tier facilities. Our hope is that the virtual tour becomes a tool to help potential employees, vendors, donors and alumni navigate the campus, and show current and potential students why JJC is a great place to continue their education," Hernandez said.

To generate interest in the virtual tour, JJC launched the "Where's Wiley" campaign. Students were encouraged to test their sleuthing skills and find where JJC's mascot, Wiley the Wolf, was hiding within the virtual tour for a chance to win one of 20 JJC cafeteria gift cards.

To take the virtual tour, visit
http://www.jjc.edu/virtual-tour

The new virtual tour allows visitors to explore JJC's buildings and key areas on Main Campus, including:

- A-Building: First, Second and Third Floors
- Agriculture
- Automotive Technology
- Business & Technology
- Cafeteria
- C-Building: Main Campus Concourse
- Culinary Arts
- Fine Arts
- Fitness Center
- Gymnasium
- Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery
- Library
- Music Technology
- Natural Science
- Planetarium
- Tutoring & Learning Center
- U-Building: Nursing and Emergency Medical & Fire Science
- Veterans Memorial Bridge
- Veterinary Medical
- Welding & Metal Fabrication

Attend an Event at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

SAVE THE DATE

34th Annual Alumni Brunch

Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m.

Honoring the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Achievement and Susan H. Wood Award recipients.

Joliet Junior College Main Campus,
U-Building Auditorium
Email alumni@jjc.edu for more information.

JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, October 25

8:30 a.m.	1 Mile Kids Run
9:00 a.m.	5K Run/Walk

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k.



Planetarium Shows

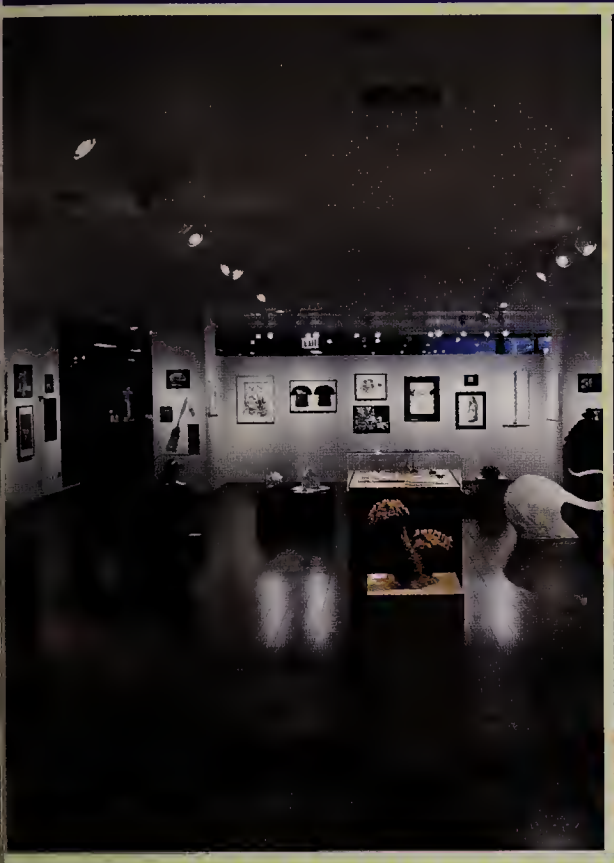
All planetarium shows are free. Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Tuesday Shows – 7:00 p.m.

April 28	Asteroids and Comets
May 12	The X-Planets - Discovering Other Earths
May 26	Seasonal Skies
June 9	The Solar System
July 7	Seasonal Skies
August 4	Asteroids and Comets

Thursday Shows - 7:00 p.m.

April 23	Larry Cat in Space*
May 7	Black Holes
May 21	Search for Intelligent Life in Space
June 4	Seasonal Skies
June 18	The Solar System
July 9	The X-Planets - Discovering Other Earths
August 6	The Solar System







Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.
All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

Musica Viva - JJC Faculty Recital: Adam Cowger, Percussion
April 26 - 3:00 p.m.

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Arts Students' Juried Exhibition
April 27-30

Student Recital
April 29 - 11:00 a.m.

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
May 1- 31

Jazz Band Spring Concert
May 1 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Band Spring Concert
May 3 - 3:00 p.m.

Spring Festival of One Acts in the Black Box Theatre
May 7-9

Chorale Masterworks Concert featuring the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Community Chorale
May 9 - 7:30 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert
May 12 - 7:30 p.m.

Honors Recital
May 14 - 7:30 p.m.

Applied Music Auditions for 2015 Summer and 2015 Fall Semesters
May 15 - Please call (815) 280-2223 for an audition time.

Gallery Exhibition: Joliet Junior College Arts Students' Juried Exhibition
June 1-25

Touring Children's Theatre Production
June 15-19 - Please call director Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 to book a tour appearance.

To learn about more events at JJC, visit
www.jjc.edu/info/more-events.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**

Jennifer Kane Howard, a 1982 graduate and local TCBY - The Country's Best Yogurt owner, is proud of her JJC education. It gave her the tools to connect with the local community, which is apparent in her work with local non-profit organizations and as a member of the JJC Foundation Board.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
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joliet junior college magazine



Sustaining Locally and Globally

JJC Students Learn to Sustain the World Around Them

FALL 2015

tcby® the country's best yogurt®

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 1901



JJC alumni and friends who show or mention this ad at TCBY locations in Shorewood or Naperville will get 25% off of their orders through December 31, 2015.

"JJC continues to be the best ingredient for my business and our community!"

– Jen Howard
Owner of Two TCBY Stores and JJC Graduate

Visit TCBY Locations:

Shorewood Crossings
930 Brook Forest Ave.
Shorewood, IL

Naperville Crossings
2940 Showplace Drive 100
Naperville, IL

Alumni who would like to be featured in a future ad should contact Mike Hernandez, JJC's Director of Marketing and Creative Services at mhernand@jjc.edu or call 815-280-2672.

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Couple Reminisces About Meeting at JJC

Bob and Pam Childress have created many memories throughout their 45 years of marriage. Through it all, they will always remember one thing: JJC is where their love story began.



Students Sustain Locally and Globally

At JJC, sustainability is a holistic activity. It includes supporting the health of our environment, our economy and our society.



Community Partnerships Create New Tech Program

The new Operations Engineering Technician program supports local labor market needs.



JJC Instructor Wins Food Network Championship

Culinary arts instructor and JJC alumnus Andy Chlebana wins his second Food Network competition.



Wolves Bag Second Place at Division III World Series

JJC's baseball team battles back from a challenging season to place nationally.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,

As I write this I can barely catch my breath—our Fall 2015 semester started August 24 and it has truly been a fast-paced and an exciting couple of months with no signs of slowing down. That said, I think it's a good thing! I've enjoyed spending time out in the district over the past year—did you know we cover parts of seven counties?— learning more about you and your educational and workforce needs.

This issue is all about JJC as a sustaining resource in our district. We've talked a lot in these pages over the years about the college's commitment to environmental sustainability, but with this issue, we want to talk about the ways in which Joliet Junior College sustains our district in economic ways and in social ways. Ultimately, the act of being sustainable is a holistic activity at JJC. The stories and updates you'll read here genuinely support these tenets.

I hope you enjoy the journey.

We are JJC,

Debra S. Daniels, Ed.D.

President

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections and alumni notes.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am excited to be writing to you as the new alumni relations and annual fund manager of Joliet Junior College. After being part of the JJC family for the last four years as a grant writer, it is a privilege to step into this position.

Born and raised in Shorewood, I know first-hand how pivotal JJC is to our community. While earning my bachelor's degree in mass communication/television journalism from Illinois State University, I took summer classes at JJC's Romeoville Campus. Needless to say, JJC pride runs in my family. My sister was my study partner in those summer classes. My dad earned his associate degree in agriculture from JJC before earning his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University. He also plays trumpet in the JJC Community Band.

I am delighted to bring a decade of experience in television news media and fundraising to this role. My passion for storytelling, people and theatre took me to Wisconsin and Springfield, Ill. where I served as a television anchor and reporter for NBC and ABC affiliates. While living in the Badger State (yes, I'm still a Bears fan) and the Land of Lincoln, I interviewed celebrities, politicians, musicians and more. Learning how to fly a Cessna plane was one of my most memorable assignments!

From the face in front of the camera to the writer behind the grant, I have acquired a blend of unique skills that will lend itself to taking the Alumni and Annual Fund Program to the next level. I am excited to leverage technology and social media to enhance alumni networking by developing an online communication portal for interaction with JJC and each other. Additionally, I look forward to working closely with students to enhance efforts to cultivate class affinity before graduation and much more.

This issue of Connections is about sustainability. As a current member of the JJC Sustainability Committee, I have learned sustainability is more than a buzzword or "going green." JJC sustains our community through environmental, social, and economic ways. Through this edition, explore how alumni are taking the education and training they receive at JJC and in turn, contributing socially and economically to our community.

The JJC Alumni Program is in an exciting time of growth, rolling out new programs for alumni in the areas of career growth, networking, and leadership development. I am excited to work closely with the Alumni Board, students, partners, and you in continuing to provide quality education services to our community.

Sincerely,
Kelly Larson
Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager

Update your information and share your story online at www.jjc.edu/info/alumni.



A Love Story that Started at JJC

Memo

by Samantha Ritz

Pam and Bob Childress have traveled the world and raised two sons together. They've held many successful careers – Bob, spending more than 20 years in engineering positions with the military, and Pam as a teacher, counselor, childcare worker and insurance adjuster. After 45 years together, Pam and Bob are happy, and they still poke fun of each other with the same innocence as the teenagers they used to be when they first met at Joliet Junior College in 1965.

Pam, who was president of JJC's Spanish Club, first noticed Bob when she was standing behind him in the lunch line at the college's annual leadership conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin – and right away, she was smitten. There was just something about his bright, red hair and blue eyes.

Originally of Lockport, Pam was known for her school spirit and involvement in JJC activities. Though she was outgoing and had a lot of friends, she was shy around boys. It wasn't typical of her to start a conversation with a boy she'd never met before, but she had to say something to Bob.

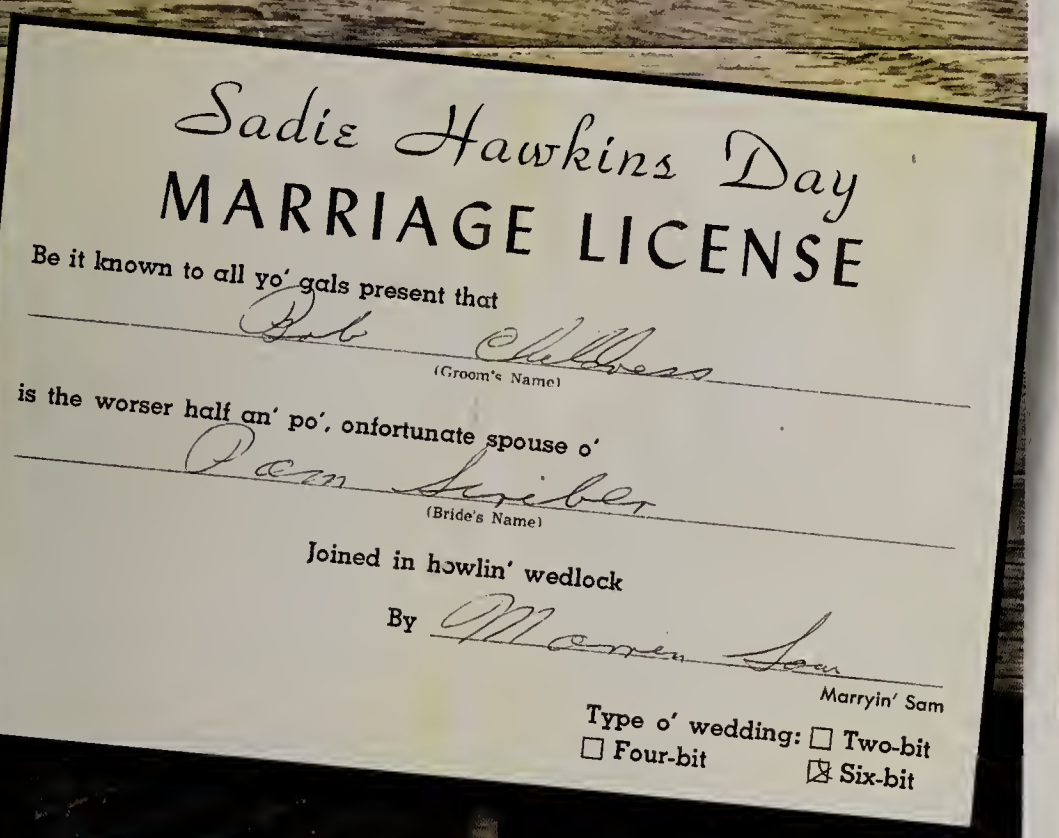
Bob, originally from Mississippi, attended the leadership conference as president of the engineering club. He hadn't expected Pam to talk to him that day, but he couldn't deny it – there was a connection between them.

When they got back to Joliet, they became friends, and usually bumped into each other in the student activities office.

JJC Administrative Assistant Susan Wood, and secretary Edith Stewart, always tried to convince them they should start dating.

"They were our matchmakers," Pam said. "Bob would come in to turn things in for his club, and they'd say: 'Have you seen Pam? Doesn't she look cute?' Then, when I'd come into the office, they'd ask me: 'Have you seen that redhead? Don't you think he looks adorable?' I'd always blush. They were our little cupids."

Before long, fall semester ended and after a break from classes, students started getting in the rhythm of schoolwork


Sadie Hawkins Day
MARRIAGE LICENSE

Be it known to all yo' gals present that

Bob Chilcoat
(Groom's Name)

is the worser half an' po', onfortunate spouse o'

Pam Schreiber
(Bride's Name)

Joined in howlin' wedlock

By Marryin' Sam

Type o' wedding: ☐ Two-bit ☐ Four-bit ☒ Six-bit



Pam and Bob - Sadie Hawkins Dance, 1966

Bits

again as they rang in the new year – 1966.

Back in the '60s and early '70s, students celebrated "Sadie Hawkins Week," which was a time for the students to switch gender roles. Female students were expected to hold their boyfriends' books, help them with their coats, pay for food, and of course, ask them to the dance. Pam and Bob weren't officially together yet, so they didn't participate in the gender role swap. Pam did, however, gather up the courage to ask Bob to the Sadie Hawkins Dance. When he said yes, she was elated.

Pam remembers Bob driving to her house in his green Volkswagen the night of the dance. When they got to the school, they talked, danced and shared their first kiss. At the end, they got their picture taken and a parting gift – a redneck-themed marriage license signed by "Marryin' Sam."

Meanwhile, through his studies at JJC, Bob was working on creating a new activity for his fellow students. At that time, computers were starting to become part of the curriculum, and as president of the engineering club, it became Bob's responsibility to create JJC's first "Digitation Dance." It included data collecting in the form of student questionnaires so the computer could calculate the best match.

Bob and Pam were paired with other people – something Pam still gives Bob a hard time about to this day.

"Neither one of our dates showed up because the weather was so severe, though," Bob said. "So, we ended up together even though we were matched up with other people."

The couple exchanged vows on June 21, 1969. Today, they live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"JJC definitely changed my life entirely. I often look back on my life and think about the turning point, and JJC was definitely it," Bob said.

"We both love JJC and we think more people should go to a junior college," Pam added.

The couple has created so many memories throughout their 45 years of marriage. Through it all, they will always remember one thing: JJC is where their love story began.

Sustaining Locally and Globally:

JJC Students Learn to Sustain the World Around Them

by Rachel Rose

At JJC, sustainability isn't just about increasing recycling or using less electricity, though it certainly includes those things. At JJC, sustainability is understood to be a much, much bigger picture: one that includes the health of our environment, our economy and our society. Through our programs, students are prepared to play a role in sustaining their communities, and they do so in a wide variety of ways. They impact their communities by being employers, employees, leaders and thinkers; home owners, business owners, farmers, nurses, teachers, and automotive technicians. And whether they remain in the local area or take their talents abroad, JJC alumni have in common the ability to impact their communities in lasting and meaningful ways.









TCBY owner and JJC alumna Jen Howard, right, speaks with her employees before the start of a shift at the store's Shorewood location.

Jen's story

Jen Howard, an '84 alumna and owner of two local TCBY (The Country's Best Yogurt) shops, wanted to open a fun and unique business around her hometown of Joliet, but wasn't exactly sure at first what that would be.

"I was a TCBY fan since the 1980s, and when I discovered their new self-serve design, I knew that was it," she said. "Our Shorewood location was one of the first self-serve frozen yogurt shops in the Chicagoland area. When we opened in April 2011, we had future frozen yogurt shop owners coming from all over the Chicagoland area to check it out."

With such a unique business and innovative ideas such as selling yogurt at sporting events and catering company parties, weddings and holiday events, Howard's business is highly successful in an era when many small businesses fail. She credits her JJC experience with preparing her for her future.

"At JJC, I loved the fact that you could explore course options that prepared me for transferring to a university, she said. "I truly felt the 'college life' during my two years at JJC. The only real difference was not living on campus. Some people have the impression that when you attend a junior college you never have a good chance at moving on and receiving a four-year degree. My experience proved quite the opposite. JJC counselors kept me on course so all of my credits transferred and I received my bachelor's degree on schedule. I feel that my experience at JJC helped in developing my confidence and discipline which was critical to my university studies and future careers."

Howard enjoys playing a role in sustaining her local community by not only running a successful small business, but by employing local residents and encouraging them to find their route to success by also attending JJC.

"I will continue to encourage students as I do with some of our employees to consider JJC if they aren't sure what they want to do or where to go after high school," she said. "I also remind them that for a lot less money they can take all of the required college courses at JJC that transfer to four-year colleges. We currently have three JJC employees and one that graduated last year and is now attending University of St. Francis."

Howard also helps sustain the success of future JJC students through her work as a JJC Foundation Board member.

"It has truly been a rewarding and exciting experience to work with so many distinguished board members that have the same passion for the success of the first community college in the country," she said. "I recently participated in the committee for awarding scholarships, which made my involvement with the board that much more meaningful and rewarding as we support JJC students in pursuing their educations."



JJC graduate Joaquin Cuevas works at Toyota National Headquarters in Torrance, Calif.

Joaquin's story

Joaquin Cuevas is a 2013 graduate of the JJC automotive program, a career he knew he wanted to pursue since he was very young, following his father's footsteps.

"My dad is an automotive technician, and my uncle had a 1970 Monte Carlo he would always bring over to work on," he said. "My dad often did side jobs at home, so he would have me pass tools and clean up. As I got older, I started to get more involved with diagnoses and repairs. At the age of 13, I bought my first broken car, to fix and sell. After seeing how much money could be made doing something I was passionate about, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the automotive industry. JJC was the perfect place to start."

Today, Cuevas finds himself playing a vital role in the success of an international automotive manufacturer, working in the technical and information diagnostics group at Toyota National Headquarters in Torrance, Calif. His role there is to help improve service information by addressing feedback from the field and communicating any issues to the company's counterparts in Japan. He is confident he would not have found such success were it not for the foundation he developed as an automotive student at JJC.

"JJC's automotive program prepared me extremely well for the job I currently have," he said. "Not only did the instructors make sure we learned the technical skills, but they always emphasized the importance of soft skills such as communication, teamwork, customer service, and professionalism. These soft skills are necessary for many jobs, and having the strong technical background helps tremendously with what I review and investigate at work."

Sergio and Armindo's story

JJC agriculture students Sergio Silva and Armindo Goncalves have come a long way from home to attend one of the college's hallmark programs. And not just in the sense that they transferred from another community college district that lacked an agriculture program: more accurately, in the sense that they have come nearly halfway around the world from their home country, the island nation of Timor-Leste near Australia, to study at America's first community college.

They came to JJC through the USAID-funded Timor-Leste Hillary Clinton Scholarship Program, an initiative with the goal of giving Timor-Leste natives the opportunity to study in the United States and return to their country to contribute to its economic and social development. Silva and Goncalves are doing just that.

"My hope is to make a difference and transformation, and do whatever it takes to help my people with the knowledge that I've acquired here," said Silva. "I want to help my local farmers make their field operations systems more pragmatic and profitable while at the same time applying the highest technology possible."

Goncalves has similar ambitions, hoping to use his JJC education to transform farming and export/import practices in his home country.

"When I return home, I would like to work to bring our government and farmers together so that our farmers have a better system for selling and hopefully even exporting produce," he said, noting that the country's main agriculture crops are coffee, corn and rice. "Many farmers right now do not have a good system for selling their produce, and they are discouraged. I want to use my JJC education to help the farmers improve their agriculture technology, and also improve exports. Right now our country imports so many things, and I believe we could be more sustainable and use the resources we already have."

While both Silva and Goncalves admit that the cultural adjustment has been significant since they came to JJC in October 2014, they both believe their time away from home, getting an education at JJC, will benefit their home community greatly when they are able to return.

Armindo Goncalves, left, and Sergio Silva, right, hope to bring the skills they learn as JJC agriculture students back to their home country of Timor Leste.



NEW PROGRAM TRAINS STUDENTS FOR TECH CAREERS

JJC Partners with Local Legislators and Employers to Develop New Operation Engineering and Technician Program

by Rachel Rose and Samantha Ritz



JJC Instructor Jeff Bradford demonstrates hands-on learning opportunities for students in an industrial maintenance technology lab.

Earlier this year Joliet Junior College unveiled a new technical program geared towards students interested in pursuing careers in the petrochemical, nuclear and manufacturing industries. The program was developed in response to local trends in the industrial and energy professions, including projected industry growth and an increasing number of retirees in the coming years.

The Department of Labor reports that employment of operations engineers is projected to grow 15 percent from 2012 to 2022, and the employment of industrial machinery mechanics and maintenance workers is projected to grow 17 percent. Both industry growth assessments are much higher than the national average for other occupations.

With the help of State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) and several local employers, JJC developed a hands-on program built around the skills and knowledge today's employers look for in recent graduates.

"We are proud to introduce this new program that articulates a clear career pathway for our students," said JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels. "We are grateful for the valuable relationships we have with our local legislators and area employers that were essential to the development of this program."

"We are grateful for the valuable relationships we have with our local legislators and area employers that were essential to the development of this program."

Dr. Debra Daniels

JJC worked closely with partners Aux Sable Liquid Products, Exelon (Braidwood Station, Dresden Station and LaSalle Station), LyondellBasell, Grundy Area Vocational Center, Coal City School District and the Grundy Economic Development Council to ensure that the curriculum would allow students to apply their learning in a practical and beneficial manner.

Sen. Rezin was a strong proponent of the new program and praised the economic advantages of melding local education and businesses to fill the projected job openings within the industry.



JJC Instructor Jeff Bradford demonstrates hands-on learning opportunities for students in an industrial maintenance technology lab to State Senator Sue Rezin and Peter Jaskoski of the energy company, TransCanada.

"The new Operations Engineering and Technician associate degree program will do wonders not only for our students but our communities...a program like this does two really important things. One, it keeps our talented students interested in this field here, instead of studying in another state. Also, because of our partners with this program including Exelon, Aux Sable, and Lyondell, this program creates a bridge for high school students to jobs in the industry in our area." Sen. Sue Rezin said. "Providing new opportunities for young people only makes us a stronger and more attractive region," added Senator Rezin.

The highly competitive program was officially launched this fall. Admission into the program was selective, and students were asked to submit an application to be considered for the 12 available spots. Upon completion of the program, students will earn an associate degree in either Operations Engineering or Operations Technician. The program is designed to train students in less than two years to meet industry demands – and in addition to providing real-world learning, the program will offer valuable internship opportunities.

"We look forward to following these students as they progress in the in the Operations Engineering and Technician program. We are confident that the education they receive at Joliet Junior College will not only prepare them for well-paying, stable, challenging careers within the industry, but also help bolster the local economy" said Dr. Debra Daniels.

CULINARY ARTS

Instructor Wins Title of Food Network's Spring Baking Champion



JJC instructor and alumnus Andy Chlebana, far right, was one of eight contestants on Food Network's "Spring Baking Championship" (photo courtesy of Food Network).

by Rachel Rose

JJC Culinary Arts Instructor Andy Chlebana wasn't planning to enter a competition again for quite some time, given his exhausting schedule the past few years that has included full-time teaching duties and a number of professional competitions. He certainly wasn't thinking about winning yet another one, considering he already had a Food Network championship under his belt, having won the Sugar Challenge in 2011 with an exquisite dress made entirely of sugar.

But when Food Network producers called him again in January 2015 and asked him to audition for "Spring Baking Championship," a show in which eight top bakers from across the nation would compete over six weeks in various baking challenges, he felt it was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

"I thought sure, I could apply... and then the whole process happened extremely quickly, and next thing I knew, I was going to be on this show along with seven other contestants," said Chlebana. "It was a whirlwind."

The filming took place over two intense weeks in Los Angeles in February, and the show aired from April to the end of May. Chlebana and the other competitors faced off each week in various baking competitions that were judged by celebrity bakers Duff Goldman, Lorraine Pascale and Nancy Fuller.

Each week, Chlebana's family and friends gathered at a restaurant to watch the episodes as they aired. As the story unfolded and he continued to survive elimination each week on the show, Chlebana struggled to keep a major secret from everyone: he had in fact won the competition.

"We filmed back in February, and two days after we were done I was back home," he said. "I did not tell a soul that I won, not even my wife. This was one of the hardest secrets I have ever had to keep."

For the final challenge, Chlebana and the two other remaining competitors were tasked with the ultimate

spring baking challenge: to make an impressive wedding cake in four hours.

"I was very worried, because this is not something I do," he said. "I was wishing I could go back in time and focus a little more on wedding cakes. But then I realized that that Dwayne and Damiano [the other competitors] didn't make wedding cakes either, so it was an even playing field."

Chlebana had saved his specialty sugar work for the final challenge, a talent that helped him win his previous Food Network competition. He also felt confident in choosing vanilla for his cake flavor, because that had been the flavor for his own wedding cake. Since he was competing for his family, he knew it was the perfect theme.

As it turned out, the judges agreed, and named Chlebana the champion of the show, which also came with a reward of $50,000.

"I did not tell a soul that I won, not even my wife. This was one of the hardest secrets I have ever had to keep."

Andy Chlebana

"I felt numb, I could not believe I won," Chlebana said. "Before we walked in the kitchen for the announcement, I felt exhausted from competing and I was praying so hard for this: I did the work and wanted to make sure the judges understood what I made. The announcement was quick, after a couple of dramatic pauses the host, Bobby Dean, said my name. I was blown away!"

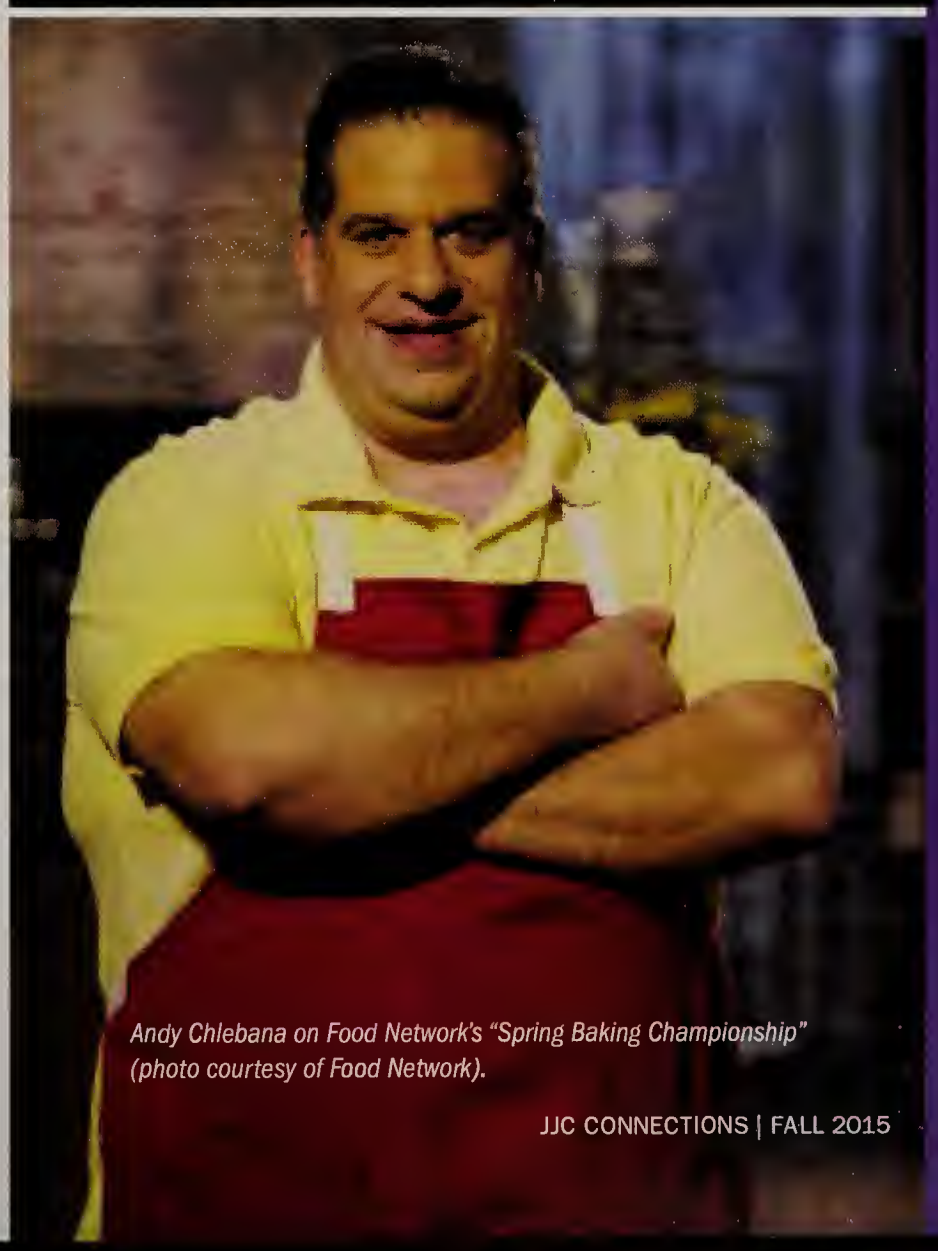
For Chlebana, the real celebration happened when it was announced on the show, and he could finally share the good news with everyone. He said there were about 200 people at the final viewing party.

"It was awesome to have such a strong showing of support from friends and family. When they announced that I won, I thought the roof was going to blow off the building!"

Chlebana said he would plan to use his winnings to take his family on a long-overdue special vacation.



Andy Chlebana's winning wedding cake (photo courtesy of Food Network).



Andy Chlebana on Food Network's "Spring Baking Championship" (photo courtesy of Food Network).

Wolves Bag Second Place Finish at the NJCAA Division III World Series



Wolves pitcher Thomas Jeffries was named 3rd-team All-American during the 2015 season.

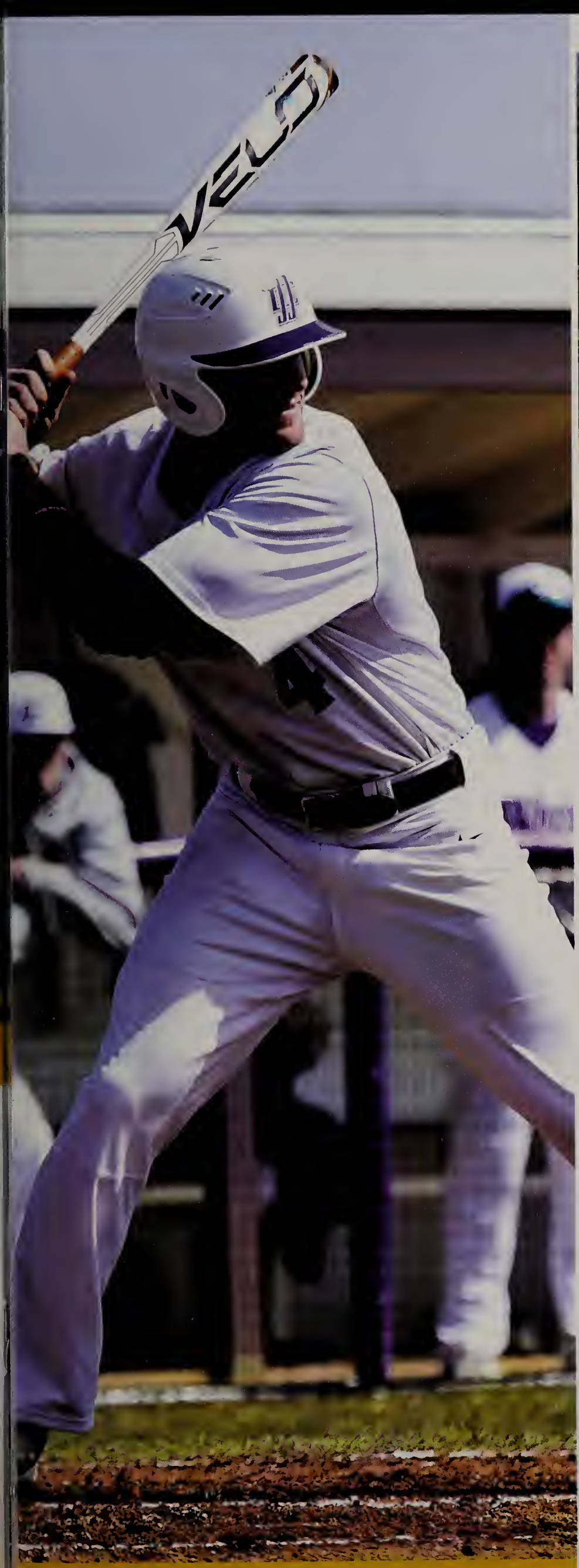
by Michelle Nagy

After a bitter fight to the end, the JJC Wolves baseball team brought home second place at the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III World Series, an admirable accomplishment after battling back from a challenging season.

The season got off to a rocky start as the fairly 'green' team, consisting of 16 freshmen and 10 sophomores, learned how to work together on the ball field. Under the seasoned leadership of Wayne L. King, Jr., Gregg Braun, Mark Marino and Randall Rivera, the boys discovered how to play as a team and swiftly changed the tide of the season.

"We were not playing very well early in the season. The kids knew we were better than what was showing. They continued to work hard and things started to fall into place for us" said Head Coach Wayne King. After getting a few wins under their belts, the team advanced to the NJCAA Region IV Championship on May 15 and 16. It was there the Wolves won two games against the Illinois Valley Community College Eagles, with scores of 5-4 and 5-1. The pivotal sweep advanced the team to the NJCAA Division III World Series in North Carolina, and marked the 16th time the Wolves achieved the title of NJCAA Region IV Champions since 1994.

At the NJCAA Division III World Series, the Wolves were joined by teams from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland and Minnesota. The Wolves came out charging in the first game of the series, winning 10-2 against Montgomery College. Keeping with the momentum of the first win, the



Wolves player TJ Condon was awarded NJCAA Division III Player of the Year for the 2015 season.



The Joliet Junior College Wolves baseball team brought home second place at the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III World Series.

team defeated Rowan-Gloucester College with a score of 11-4. The third game proved difficult for the Wolves and they lost against Tyler Junior College. Rebounding, JJC pulled out a win against number one ranked Herkimer County Community College, with a score of 11-0.

The comeback advanced the Wolves to the finals, where they once again came head-to-head with the Tyler Junior College Apaches for the championship game. The Wolves fought hard, matching the Apaches run-for-run, but ultimately the Wolves fell to Tyler, who inched ahead with a score of 10 to 9.

"The biggest thing that stands out to me when I look back on the season is where we started from. In the beginning we weren't doing as well as we expected to. But as the season went on, things started getting better and better, and by the time we made it to the World Series, everything was clicking. Next year we expect to be back in the World Series, but this time win it all," said Wolves pitcher and 3rd-team All-American, Thomas Jeffries.

The Wolves took home the title of runner-up, finishing their season with a record of 38 wins and 25 losses. However, the second place finish wasn't the only impressive accomplishment of the season. After a landslide victory against the Milwaukee Area Technical College earlier in the spring, the Wolves earned King his 1,000th win, a notable addition to his list of achievements over a 29-season career at JJC.

Wayne King Reaches a Grand Slam Career with 1,000th Win



A banner detailing King's accomplishment has been permanently added to the left-field wall of the JJC baseball field.



Sophomore Wolves players presented King with a baseball and engraved case to commemorate his 1,000th win.

by Michelle Nagy

This spring marked a milestone achievement for both the Joliet Junior College athletic department and head baseball coach Wayne L. King Jr. After a landslide victory against the Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Wolves led King to his 1,000th career victory.

To commemorate the historic moment, a ceremony was held in his honor after the game. A banner detailing his accomplish was permanently added to the left-field wall, and the sophomore Wolves players presented King with a baseball and engraved case.

"Reaching 1,000 wins with the baseball team is a very nice honor," King said. "I want to thank the kids, coaches and everyone who has been associated with our program throughout the years – they have been phenomenal."

The case now resides in King's office alongside nine other baseballs which pay homage to his accomplishments over his 29 year career as the men's Wolves baseball coach.

34TH ANNUAL ALUMNI BRUNCH

Celebrating Distinguished JJC Alumni and Community Members

by Michelle Nagy

The 2015 spring season was a time to celebrate both a reprieve from the area's sub-zero temperatures and Joliet Junior College's alumni, retirees, faculty, staff and friends of the past 60 years. The annual Spring Alumni Brunch held on Sunday, June 7 honored the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005. Attendees were treated to a gourmet buffet breakfast, catered by JJC culinary staff, and floral arrangements designed by the college's floral design students.

"There were so many people, representing all these different generations of JJC history. It was nice for them to socialize and come together to celebrate JJC and their time as students here," said JJC Executive Director of Resource Development Kristi Mulvey.

At the event, three awards were granted, recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of JJC alumni to the college and the Joliet community.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Robert Larson, an optometrist from the class of 1976. This award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an alumni, and is reserved for those who have demonstrated outstanding success in their chosen field and who have provided humanitarian service to society. Outside of work, Larson has dedicated himself to serving the Joliet community through organizations like the Plainfield Lions Club and George Werden Buck Boys and Girls Club, among others.

The 2015 Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award was granted to two recipients, Silas Ellingson, mathematics professor emeritus, and John Cronin, retired farmer. The award recognizes former faculty members, administrators or friends who have served JJC in an exceptional way. Silas Ellingson worked at JJC for more than 25 years serving as chair of the Mathematics Department. John Cronin volunteers as a tour guide at JJC's historic Cronin Schoolhouse, and was instrumental in its restoration. In addition, Cronin works closely with the Agriculture Department, providing laboratory assistance and equipment.



President Dr. Debra Daniels (right) congratulates the Alumni Brunch award recipients (left to right) John Cronin, Silas Ellingson and Dr. Robert Larson.



The attendees of the 2015 Alumni Brunch pose for a photo.



Dr. Robert Larson (right) accepts the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.



John Cronin accepts the 2015 Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award for his years of service to JJC.

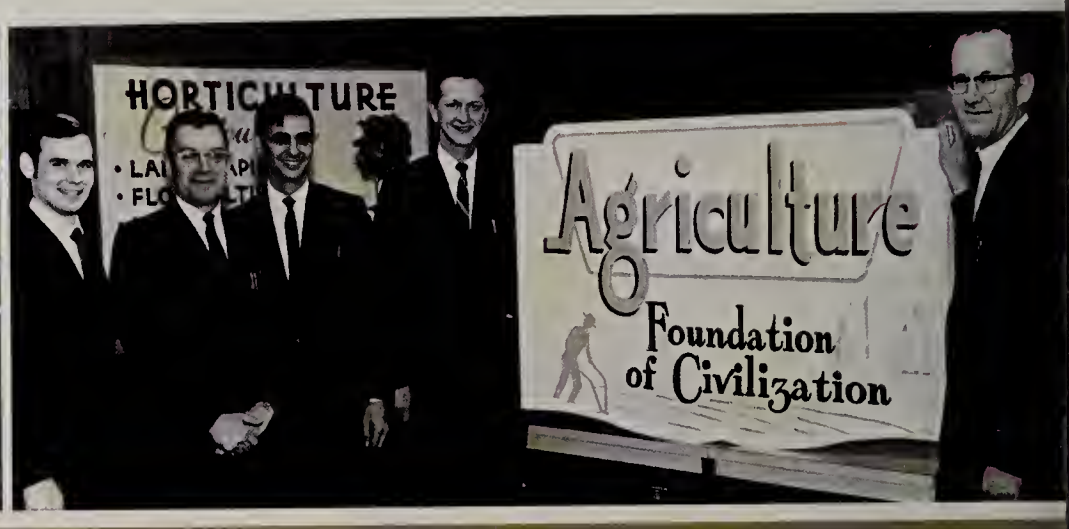
FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Growing Food, Cultivating Community:

JJC's Agriculture Program Connects Technology and Current Social Issues to History and Tradition

by Amy Chellino





Since 1947, Joliet Junior College's Agriculture Program has set the standard for educating students on the newest technologies and issues in farming and food production. Many may not know that the program was first developed for returning World War II veterans. Former ag professor Max Kuster taught JJC's first ag students in a building just south of Joliet Central High School. In a 1977 interview with the Manahattan American, Kuster reminisced about the first agriculture building.

"It was a 3-story apartment building and [we] were raising chickens on the third floor..." he said. "When it rained we weren't quite sure what we had seeping through the boards on the floors."

Kuster was known for his persistence and he rarely took no for an answer. His colleague, current JJC Agriculture Professor Bill Johnson recently recalled one of Max's favorite lines: "We boys, all we can do is fire and fall back and see what happens."

Several years after the program was initiated, Kuster recognized a need for further education, and in 1954, he developed an agriculture curriculum for Joliet Junior College. The first four classes offered were Diary Science, Feeds and Feeding, Agriculture Economics and Crop Production.

His tenacity sparked him to coordinate a junior college program with the University of Illinois with agriculture classes that would easily transfer to their four-year degree program. In 1964, he was approached about starting a two-year pilot program. It was then that Bob Jurgens was brought on to develop coursework in Agriculture Business, which became the first certificate of its kind in Illinois. In a 1999 interview transcript now located in the JJC Library Archives, Jurgens recalled those days.

"We told the kids they were all guinea pigs, work it out, nobody had ever done this before...We just flew by the seat of our pants...We had an advisory and they helped us determine what we needed, how to structure courses and so forth."

By 1966, the first class graduated with 42 students. In 1968, the formal Agriculture Production program began with Bill Johnson as developer, coordinator and instructor. It was around this time that the college separated from Joliet Township High School to become its own community college district and began plans for its first-ever campus on Houbolt Road.

While the Houbolt Road campus was under construction, the department was housed in a temporary building, and in the fall of 1972, the program moved to a permanent building "Myself, Max Kuster and Maynard Boudreau...sat down with a couple pieces of paper and drew the design of that ag building, and the architects took it and completed it," Jurgens explained in the 1999 interview. "And we wound up with the ag department." A portion of John F. Richard's Farm, which was acquired for the Houbolt Road main campus in 1968, became a land laboratory for the program in 1983. This 140-acre lab still provides students with educational opportunities to participate in testing and research.

In 1999, John Weitendorf, Sr., a 1942 JJC alumnus, generously donated 32 acres of land to the agriculture program and partnered with the college to build a facility that opened in 2007.

The Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center is located on Laraway Road and gives student hands-on experience farming livestock.

One element that makes JJC's agriculture program unique are the internships that students can participate in during their fourth semester. In 1999, Jurgens recalled how the internships began and their importance to the curriculum.

"Get your grubby clothes on, and get out in the dirt, and set those plants there," Jurgens said. "Actually, hands on...I can talk to you in the classroom...and then get your behind out there and do it," he proclaimed.

Even today, internship opportunities continue to provide students with opportunities to gain skills and further explore a particular area of farming.

In the nearly seventy years since inception, the department today has almost 100 courses. Agriculture students are trained on smart equipment that steers itself in the farmers' fields and applies variable rates of fertilizers, pesticides and seed. The department purchased its first drone unit last spring and all agriculture students have the opportunity to pilot the device. The images from drones help to determine where there are problems with crops. The curriculum has evolved to include technology and several classes discuss the reasons behind the use of technology to better educate students about producing an abundance of high quality food through various means.

Professor Johnson's career has spanned nearly 50 years at Joliet Junior College. The history and insight he brings to his students comes from decades of experience in the field. When asked about the issues facing agriculture today he explains that most people are completely separated from where their food originates.

"They are bombarded with misinformation about food and its safety," he said. "We live in a society that strives for sustainable measures...most people do not realize that we use fewer chemicals today to produce much larger crop yields in large part due to the adoption of GMO crops."

Science, specifically biotechnology, can now use genes to produce better quality plants and animals that are much more efficient and productive.

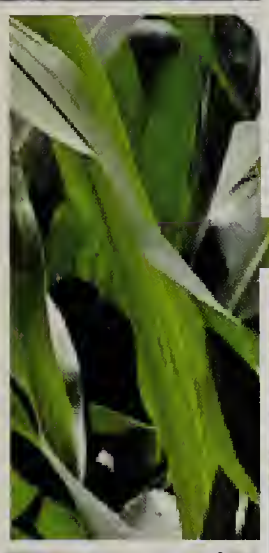
"One farmer today feeds more than 150 people—twice the number since I began teaching," Johnson explained. "All of the new technology has added more excitement to the prospect of being involved in producing grain and livestock and there is more awareness of the importance of producing enough food to feed a population of 9 billion people that we will have in the world by 2050."

LouisJohn Slagel graduated from the college's agriculture program and operates Slagel Family Farms in Fairbury, Ill. which has over 100 Chicago-area restaurants that feature his meat products on their menus. Slagel recently expressed that he gained many advantages and essential information about genetics, feeding and nutrition of livestock from the agriculture program at JJC.

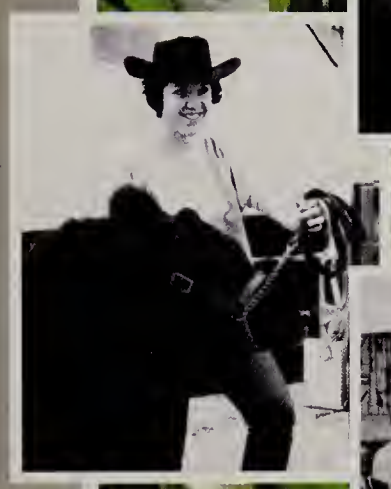
As the college continues to educate students, these graduates help our community strive to be a place of balance, harmony and nourishment. With a rich history, state of the art equipment, knowledge of current food issues, and real-world opportunities, JJC's Agriculture Program has educated farmers on producing sustainable, nutrient rich, quality food essential for our community and country to thrive for generations.













Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: (815) 280-2344

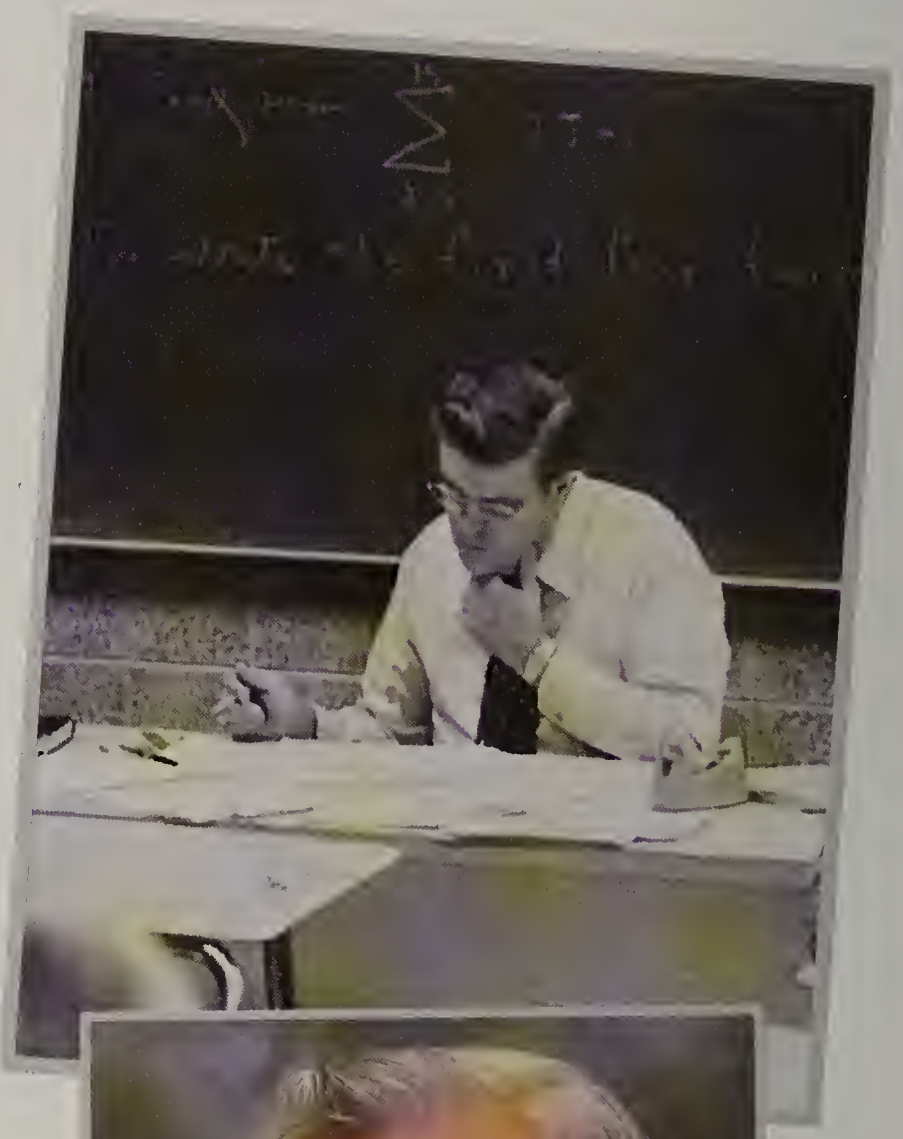
People Then and Now

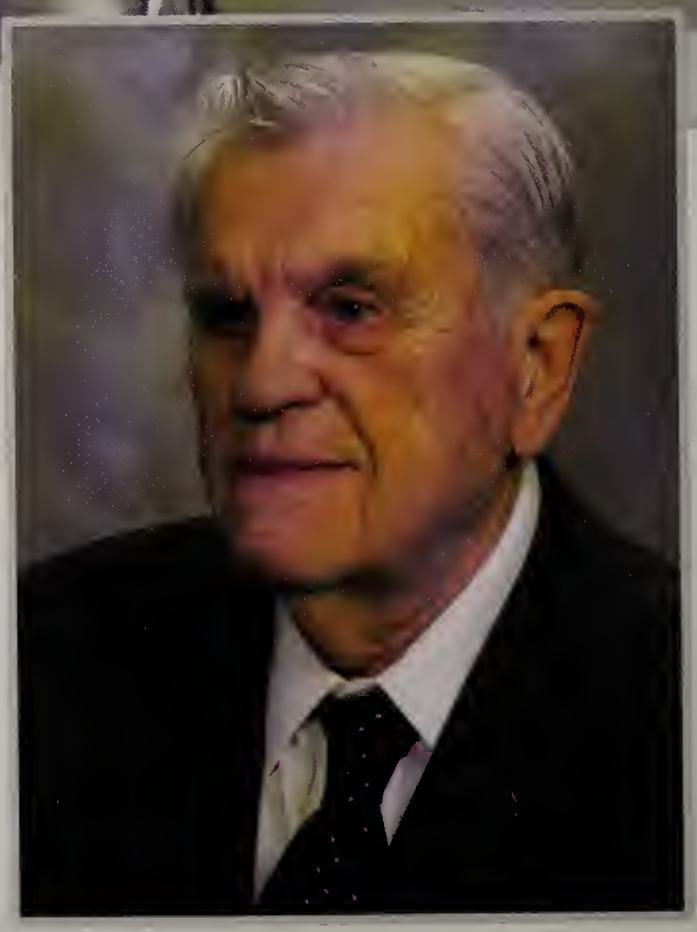
Silas Ellingson

THEN The education career of Mr. Silas Ellingson began in North Dakota. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Minnesota and his master's degree from Northern Colorado University. While in school, Silas was awarded three National Science Foundation Scholarships, which profoundly impacted the course of his career.

He continued on to hold mathematics instructor positions in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming and Illinois, spanning a career of more than 40 years. In 1984, Ellingson was selected by the USSR Education Department as one of 40 National Council of Mathematics teachers to tour 14 schools in their country.

For more than 25 years, Silas Ellingson served Joliet Junior College as Professor Emeritus and chairman of the mathematics department. He retired in the 1990-91 school year. During his time as chairman, Mr. Silas Ellingson recalls the pride he felt serving the nation's first public community college, and the enjoyment he received working with outstanding young students and faculty.





NOW Silas recently was awarded the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award. This honor recognizes a non-alumna/alumnus of Joliet Junior College who is a current or former faculty member, administrator or friend who has served Joliet Junior College in an exceptional way. He continues to follow the progress and physical development of JJC. As he has for 48 years, Silas currently resides in the area with his wife Olivia. They enjoy time with their daughter Julie, an alumnus of Joliet Junior College, her husband and their two children.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

JJC continues to undergo growth and renovation as Master Plan projects get underway this year.



Multipurpose Facility

The college broke ground for the Multipurpose Facility on Aug. 25. The new building, which is expected to be completed in 2017, will house athletic training facilities, basketball courts, an indoor track, offices, and seating to accommodate athletic competitions and graduation ceremonies.

Romeoville Expansion

The college broke ground on the Romeoville expansion on Sept. 8. The new building, which is the first new construction on the campus since it was built in 1993, will house student services, a bookstore, cafeteria, classrooms, laboratories and offices.





City Center Campus

The exterior work on the City Center Campus was completed in 2014. The interior work is scheduled to begin this fall, with an anticipated opening in 2017. The facility will house workforce development, GED/ESL training, adult education and culinary arts.

News Briefs



JJC culinary arts students and instructors with Governor Bruce Rauner in the kitchens of the Executive Mansion in March.

Culinary Students Cook Special Dinner for Gov. Rauner, State Legislators in Springfield

Twelve Joliet Junior College culinary arts students and two professors were invited to cook a four-course meal for Governor Bruce Rauner and state legislators at the Executive Mansion in Springfield in March 2015.

Rauner shared that this was the first dinner service he hosted in the Executive Mansion dining room. Guests also included JJC trustees and JJC President Debra Daniels.

The meal featured poached flounder and saffron herb mousseline, steamed mussels, braised fennel, honey brined pork tenderloin sous vide, and creamed rutabaga, amongst other gourmet entrees. Dessert included chocolate mousse, strawberry-vanilla bean anglaise, and crispy toasted meringue.

"We are so proud of our students, our faculty, and our renowned culinary arts program," Dr. Daniels said. "At JJC, our students receive the best training to prepare them for careers locally and across the globe. We thank Governor Rauner for his support of community colleges and for recognizing the important work they do in career training and ultimately their value in higher education in the state of Illinois."

JJC students participating included Patrick Elens of Plainfield; Andrew Fisher of Homer Glen; Chloe Franscona of Woodridge; Jarvis Jones of Minooka; Katlyn Kelty of Coal City; Laci Lanclos of Peotone; Rose (Catherine) Mertens of Yorkville; Brian McPherson of Bartlett; Hannah Moeller of Millbrook; Rachel Pauley of Plainfield; Javier Reyes of Shorewood; and Jennifer Troccoli of Ottawa. Culinary arts professors included Chef Paul D. Bringas of Joliet and Chef Mark Muszynski of Plainfield.

Legislators representing seven counties within the JJC Community College District 525 were in attendance including McGuire, Durkin, Rep. Larry Walsh, Jr.; Rep. Emily McAsey; Rep. Dan Brady; Sen. Michael Hastings; Sen. Sue Rezin; Sen. Toi Hutchinson, Rep. Margo McDermed; Rep. John Anthony; Rep. Natalie Manley; and Rep. Mark Batinick. JJC trustees included Board Chair Andy Mihelich, Vice Chair Jeff May, Secretary Susan Klen, Trustee Barbara K. Adams, Trustee Tina Markley, Trustee Mike O'Connell, and Student Trustee Brian Herrera.

JJC's History Program Receives Extraordinary Donation

The Joliet Junior College history program recently received a large gift worth more than $300,000 from the late James P. Sczepaniak, a retired social studies teacher and 1955 graduate of the college.

Sczepaniak, a Joliet resident best known for being the longest serving board member of the Joliet Public Library at nearly 35 years, passed away at the age of 78 on Nov. 9, 2014, leaving donations to 12 different organizations, many of them historical societies and other academic history departments.

In addition to JJC, Sczepaniak attended Joliet Township High School, Lewis University, and served in the U.S. Army. For more than 33 years, he taught social studies at area high schools, including Lockport Township High School and Romeoville High School. He was also an avid photographer.

The JJC Social and Behavioral Sciences Department is currently in the process of making plans for this extraordinary donation to JJC's history program.



James P. Sczepaniak '55 (right) is pictured with retired JJC History Professor Robert Sterling.

"The amount of this donation is just outstanding for JJC. Gifts this large from one individual can be very rare," said Kristi Mulvey, JJC executive director of resource development. "Donors are very important to JJC because they help fund not only scholarships, but also educational programs and equipment, which enhances the learning experience our students receive. We are extremely thankful for the Sczepaniak donation."

Are you interested in supporting Joliet Junior College? Please call Kristi Mulvey for more information at (815) 280-2353.



Former JJC Trustee Jeff May honors retiring State Rep. Renee Kosel at the Board's April meeting.

JJC Honors Outgoing State Rep. Renee Kosel

The Board of Trustees honored retiring State Rep. Renee Kosel with a special dinner and board resolution to thank her for supporting education, job creation and economic development in the college's district during a Board of Trustees meeting on April 14.

"It was a privilege to support an organization like JJC," she said. "I believe that community colleges are the future of education for this country. You do a wonderful job here. It has been an honor on my part to serve you," she said.

Kosel served the 81st district from 1997 to 2015, and during that time, was instrumental in key initiatives for the college, including helping procure $100,000 through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to support the development of veterans space and services on the JJC Main Campus.

"State Rep. Kosel has been incredibly supportive of JJC throughout her years of service as an elected official," said JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels. "Having a great working relationship with our local legislators is a priority to us, and we are very appreciative of their support and commitment to our mission."

News Briefs



Left to right: Franco Nino, Amy Reichard, Shavonta McKeever, Kevin Wilson, William Perry, Todd Willbur, Michelle Haley, Danielle Cook, Michelle Mondia.

Military Medical Corpsman Program Celebrates First Graduates

After eight weeks of studying, clinicals and a lot of hard work, all nine military corpsmen have successfully graduated from JJC's Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse certificate program.

JJC was the first college in the state to offer this program, which allows military medics who have completed the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program within the last five years to earn certificates as practical nurses in less than two months.

This eight-week program was created to make it easier and faster for military medics to obtain a nursing certificate by transferring their military credits into educational credits.

"They were a unique group of students. They were enthusiastic learners and took responsibility for their education," said JJC Nursing Professor Kathleen Wolz.

Veterans interested in the program can utilize available veteran education benefits like the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Illinois Veterans' Grant, and others to cover eligible program expenses.

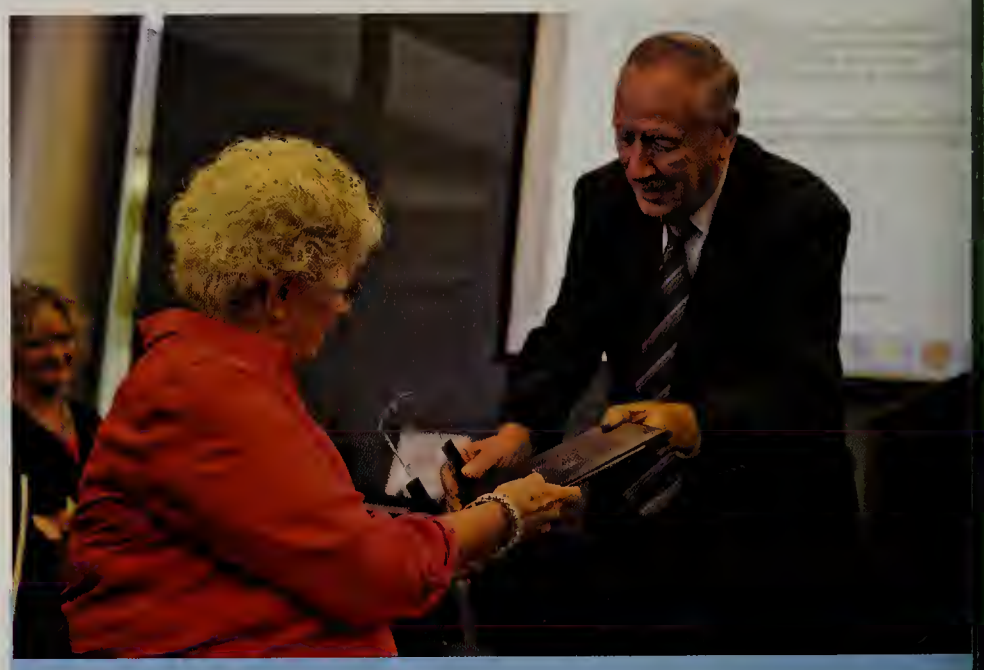
"A program like this allows you to have a short period of time to improve yourself and use the skills that you have and all the experience you have gained," said Michelle Mondia, military medic and graduate of the program.

JJC Board of Trustees Honors Morris Resident Joe Schmitz with Extraordinary Service Award

The Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees honored Joe Schmitz of Morris with the 2014 JJC J. D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award (ESA) on June 9.

The ESA is the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the college. Developed by the board to honor residents who have given outstanding service to Community College District 525, the award was named for former JJC President J. D. Ross.

Schmitz was nominated by Morris Mayor Richard Kopzick for his charitable work with Operation St. Nick, a non-profit Schmitz founded in 1979 to provide needy children with Christmas gifts.



Joe Schmitz and his wife, Carol, at the June 9 Board meeting during which Joe was honored with the college's J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award.

Over the past 35 years, Operation St. Nick has raised more than $1.5 million to help more than 6,000 families.

Schmitz is also a Navy veteran and a former president of Exchange Bank in Gardner, Illinois. He and his wife of nearly 50 years, Carol, have three children and seven grandchildren.



JJC Wins Second in Nation, $15,000 in PepsiCo Recycling Challenge

by Samantha Ritz

Joliet Junior College won second place in the nation and $15,000 in the PepsiCo Campus Recycling Challenge this past spring. The college received its second place title after 36,130 beverage containers were recycled from October 2014 to March 2015.

The prize money went toward student sustainability initiatives and two celebrations in May and August that helped to promote the PepsiCo Dream Machine, a recycling kiosk that rewards students and measured JJC's progress in the contest.

JJC's second place win comes after receiving first place during the 2013-2014 school year, although no prizes were awarded then. Since so many cans were recycled last year, PepsiCo installed a second Dream Machine on campus, making JJC the only college in the nation with two Dream Machines.

A lot of the recycling this year fell into the hands of the student group, Students for a Sustainable Future, whose members gathered and recycled 13,000 units just in the last month of the competition.

Eric Wilhelmi, president of Students for a Sustainable Future, said he would never forget the last day of the competition.

"We went around neighborhoods, knocking on doors, asking for people's cans, bottles, things that they would donate to us. By the end of the experience, we managed to pull together another 600 units just on that last day," Wilhelmi said. "Considering the volume we did, I am incredibly proud of myself, my friends, our group, and most importantly, our school."

"One of the main goals of the Students for a Sustainable Future is to educate our student body and to change what's happening on our campus and in our community. The students have done such a great job and put in so much work this year," added JJC Sustainability Coordinator Maria Anna Rafac.

Recycling at the Dream Machine supports two of the college's goals – expanding the use of sustainable methods at the college and preparing students for careers that require an understanding of sustainability.

"The college is committed to this holistic concept of sustainability, and the Pepsi Dream Machine allows us to demonstrate that everyday here at the college," JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels said.

JJC Receives Bronze Rating from Sustainability Tracking Organization AASHE STARS



JJC's Greenhouse, shown above, was completed in 2009 was the first LEED-registered greenhouse at a community college in the nation.

by Samantha Ritz

For years, sustainability has been a priority at Joliet Junior College. Now the college finally has something to show for it.

In July, JJC was awarded a bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), a prestigious global organization that recognizes institutions for its accomplishments in sustainability.

The college was scored in four specific categories: planning and administration, engagement, operations and academics. More than 40 JJC faculty and staff on the college's Sustainability Committee representing departments and offices across the college (including its extended campuses) worked to gather all the data for the AASHE STARS application during the 2014-2015 school year. A student and a member of the Board of Trustees also contributed to the report.

"This is the first time that JJC, an institution with many LEED certified buildings, has undergone the AASHE STARS assessment," said JJC Sustainability Committee chair Dr. Peter Linden. "Its results will now guide our continued work to assure ongoing quality improvement in the area of sustainability. Additionally, this globally recognized designation underscores a longstanding institutional commitment to encourage the JJC community to embrace sustainable practices by fully integrating these into our daily practices and culture."

Being certified with AASHE STARS only validates how important sustainability is to the college. Not only was sustainability incorporated into JJC's current strategic plan, but this year it was designated as a new institutional core value. The bronze rating also recognizes JJC's long-term goals that will contribute to a more diverse campus and sustainable community for the college.

JJC's bronze rating comes after anthropologist Dr. Jennifer Hirsch served as the college's sustainability collaborator during the 2014-2015 school year. In addition to guiding the committee as they applied for certification,



Children visit the JJC Farmer's Market in the summer of 2015.



The college's Sustainability Committee, pictured above, led the effort to complete the AASHE STARS assessment.

Hirsch also taught members a broader definition of sustainability. The college now looks at sustainability not only as something environmental, but something economical and social as well.

JJC Sustainability Coordinator and Architecture Professor Maria Anna Rafac said it's essential for the JJC community to look at sustainability from these three viewpoints.

"Sustainability is important to JJC because it promotes healthy people, a healthy community and a healthy earth. You can be sustainable by recycling, volunteering in your community, or creating a balanced budget. Sustainability is at its peak when you combine multiple perspectives that include social equity, economics and the environment," Rafac said. "By receiving a bronze rating from AASHE STARS, JJC has proven that we are showing commitment to sustainability and the communities we serve."



This aerial view of the JJC Campus Center features the front door to the Main Campus. The building, which was completed in 2011, earned a LEED-Gold certification.



The nearly 9,000 sq. ft. Greenhouse features a rainwater harvesting system and mechanically ventilated operable roofs.

Attend an Event at JJC



JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more Information on Alumni or Foundation events, call (815) 280-2215.

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Employee Recognition Event
December 10, 2015

JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk
Sunday, October 25

8:30 a.m.	1 Mile Kids Run
9:00 a.m.	5K Run/Walk

For more information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k

Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshops
Valentine Scholarship Event
February 2016

Scholarship Recognition/Donor Dinner Event
March 2016

35th Annual JJC Alumni Brunch
June 2016

Planetarium Shows

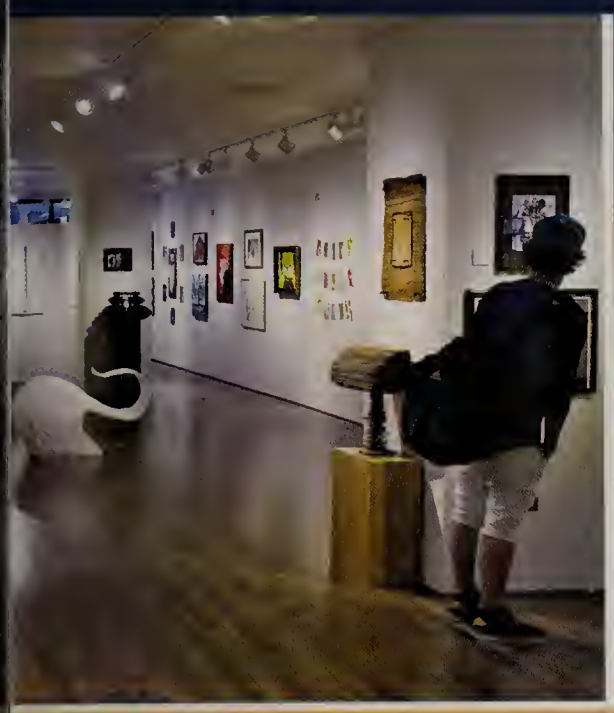
All planetarium shows are free. Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Tuesday Shows – 7 p.m.

November 10	Back to the Moon for Good
November 24	Telescope Basics
December 8	Seasonal Skies
December 22	Story of the Christmas Star
January 5	The Search for Intelligent Life in Space
January 19	Colliding Objects in Space - Asteroid, Meteors, Comets and Galaxies
February 2	Humans and Robots in Space
February 16	Sunstruck
March 1	Seasonal Skies
March 15	Asteroids and Comets
March 29	Cosmic Journey
April 12	The Solar System
April 26	Seasonal Skies
May 10	Larry Cat in Space*
May 24	Mars

Thursday Shows – 7 p.m.

November 5	We Go To The Moon*
November 19	Colliding Objects in Space - Asteroid, Meteors, Comets and Galaxies
December 3	Seasonal Skies
December 17	Story of the Christmas Star
December 31	no show**
January 14	Back to the Moon for Good
January 28	The Search for Intelligent Life in Space
February 11	The X-Planets Discovering other Earths
February 25	Humans and Robots in Space
March 10	Seasonal Skies
March 24	We Go To The Moon*
April 7	Sunstruck
April 21	Asteroids and Comets
May 5	Seasonal Skies
May 19	The Solar System







Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.
All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

Musica Viva – Cor Cantiamo
At the historic St. Joseph
Catholic Church
November 8 – 3 p.m.

Gallery Exhibit
Joliet Junior College Area High Schools
November 9 - 25

Black Box Theater
It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play
November 12-14, 19-21 – 7:30 p.m.
November 14-15, 21-22 – 2 p.m.

Student Recital
November 18 – 11 a.m.

Gallery Exhibit
Joliet Junior College Area High Schools
November 30 - December 11

Jazz Band - Winter Concert
December 4 – 7:30 p.m.

Community Band - Winter Concert
December 6 – 3 p.m.

Chamber Singers – MadriGala
Winter Concert
December 11 – 7:30 p.m.

Community Chorale – Carols
and Chocolate
December 13 – 3 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion
Ensembles Concert
December 16 – 7:30 p.m.

Musica Viva – Piano, and
Ragtime Ensemble
January 17 – 3 p.m.

Gallery Exhibit- Colin Lane Sherrill
January 19 - February 12

Student Recital
January 27 – 11 a.m.

Musica Viva – New Orleans
Cajun Music
February 21 – 3 p.m.

Student Recital
February 24 – 11 a.m.

The Rocky Horror Show
February 25-27 – 7:30 p.m.
February 27 – 11 p.m.
February 28 – 2 p.m.

Musica Viva – Chamber Music
March 6 – 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Gallery Exhibit – Dave Wilson
March 7 – April 1

Metropolitan Youth
Symphony Orchestra
March 20 – 4 p.m.

Student Recital
March 30 – 11 a.m.

Black Box Theatre - 6 Rms Riv Vu
April 14-16, 21-23 – 7:30 p.m.
April 16-17, 22-23 – 2 p.m.

To learn about more events at JJC, visit
www.jjc.edu/info/more-events.

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**

Glen Marcum, a **1980** graduate, is celebrating 38 years with Bertino's Auto Services in Joliet and is president of the Joliet Park District Board. His passion for the community is apparent: he's raised over three million dollars for local non-profit organizations over the last 20 years. Glen and his wife Patricia, also a JJC graduate, reside in Joliet and have three sons and one daughter.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

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joliet junior college magazine

SPECIAL 115th Anniversary Issue

CONNECTING

The Past to the Present



SPRING 2016

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

FARMERS MARKET

Every Thursday,

May 26 - September 15

2 - 6 p.m.

JJC Greenhouse parking lot
1215 Houbolt Road






LOCALLY GROWN * LOCALLY MADE * LOCALLY YOURS



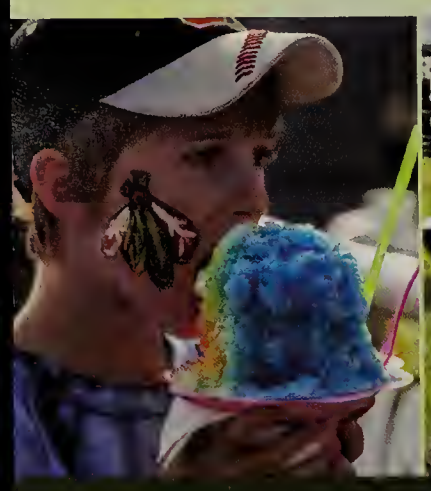




Visit the Joliet Junior College Farmers Market for a variety of seasonal produce, decadent baked goods and other unique offerings. Your patronage supports growers and business owners in your community, and strengthens the local economy.

Bring in this ad and receive a free gift!

Limit one per person.






For more information and a full list of participating vendors, visit jjc.edu/info/farmersmarket.

Link/SNAP program funds are accepted. For the first $10 you spend every week, you will double your Link dollars.

CONNECTIONS

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Connecting the Past to the Present

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Encapsulationg the Past for the Class of 2051

In celebration of the college's centennial in 2001, a time capsule was buried to preserve history for future generations.



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Review of financials from FY 2015 for the college and the JJC Foundation.



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CONNECTIONS



Dear JJC supporters,

If you're a longtime reader of Connections, then you've already noticed that I am a newcomer to this page! Let me introduce myself: I am Dr. Judy Mitchell, and I'm currently serving as JJC's interim president. Our former president, Dr. Debra Daniels, left the college in March 2016 after four years in the role. I'd like to thank Dr. Daniels for her contributions to the college, including the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan and a Master Plan Update that launched the construction of the Romeoville Campus expansion and the JJC Events Center. Dr. Daniels also established the JJC Commitment Scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged students and help them pay for college. I know you'll join me in thanking her for her service.

Since taking this post in April 2016, it's been my top priority to ensure smooth and continuous support to our students and to our employees, giving them the tools they need to be successful. Before stepping into this role, I've invested nearly 20 years of my career here at JJC, most recently serving as the vice president of administrative services. I'm looking forward to serving the college and its constituents in a beneficial way.

Beyond my introduction, what I'm truly pleased to share with you is that JJC celebrates its 115th year this year! It was in 1901 that our founders, J. Stanley Brown and William Rainey Harper started the very first community college model in the country, right here in Joliet. We've gone from six students then to a total 38,000 credit-seeking and lifelong learning students today.

In that time, our mission has remained relatively the same: to provide local access to quality higher education at an accessible cost. Over time however, our focus has evolved to include workforce development opportunities, business and industry training, and international education initiatives. Shifting economies, evolving industries, advancements in technology, and diverse social needs propel us, shaping our programs and offerings.

As you can guess, like any successful organization, surviving and thriving over a century does not come without challenges. Labor market fluctuations, economic downturns, and perilous state budget problems test our resolve frequently.

Ever true to our roots, we innovate to resolve these challenges. We've reduced our operating costs over the past four years by over $2 million. We've actively pursued creative revenue sources, receiving more than $5.4 million in grants to offset operational costs in FY15. We've done all of this while keeping tuition low for our students—in FY16, JJC ranked 14th out of 16 peer colleges like Moraine Valley, Prairie State, Elgin Community College, and others across the state for the lowest tuition rate.

In terms of our enrollment and retention initiatives, over a 10-year period—Spring 2007 to Spring 2016—the college has seen an increase in enrollment of nearly 11 percent. Our online coursework continues to grow, with online student headcount increasing by 5.5 percent in the FY16 spring semester.

In this issue, you'll find the college's annual report, along with the JJC Foundation's annual report. Our Foundation Board's passion and dedication for our students is unparalleled. In 2015, JJC students received nearly $850,000 in scholarship funds, while the financial aid office disbursed nearly $22 million in grants and loans to students to support their education.

Whatever your connection to Joliet Junior College may be, I thank you for your contribution to and involvement in our institution. As we reflect on our history, please know you've already played a role in our future success.

Dr. Judy Mitchell
JJC Interim President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I can't believe it has been 15 years since I came to Joliet Junior College as a fundraiser. I was hired during the college's Centennial Celebration in 2001, and now we are celebrating 115 years. So much has happened since those early years at Joliet Central High School!

As we know, time goes on and things inevitably change. For JJC, many of those changes have been increases in investments from people like you. The JJC Foundation has grown from 6.8 million dollars 15 years ago, to over $20 million dollars in 2016. We have been fortunate to receive several major gifts from our alumni over the years, such as John Weitendorf, Sr., ('42) Edward Cwiklo ('35) and Vera Smith ('24), not to mention significant gifts from Jeanette Sing Wirt in 2014 for $268,000 to support nursing scholarships and $330,000 in 2015 from James Sczepaniak to support our history programs.

Additionally, as you've seen in past issues of this magazine, we've completed an impressive and ambitious master plan for updated and new facilities throughout the past eight years. There are naming opportunities for many of these facilities, and so we've been connecting with our stakeholders for those conversations.

While we continue to expand our facilities and introduce new academic and training programs for our students, suffice it to say, we need donor support more than ever before. While individual giving makes up over 80% of philanthropic support to the Foundation, our corporate partners have played a vital role in supporting various academic areas.

Companies such as ExxonMobil, LyondellBasell, TransCanada and W.W. Grainger have donated funds to support new equipment and scholarships. Without their support, we would not be able to keep up with the continuous update of vital equipment and curriculum, as technology and skills adapt to meet new needs in the workforce.

Another positive change I've seen in my time at JJC is a growing interest in supporting our veterans. In addition to our new Veterans Resource Center which we opened in 2015, we now have annual scholarships that are specifically directed for veterans. These scholarships cover tuition, books and fees.

Our donors know that students are our future and they deserve a quality education. Every day, more and more people are stepping up to support Joliet Junior College. I want to thank the many generous past donors for their financial support. I invite you to join our current donors by supporting JJC through the Foundation in celebration of our 115th anniversary. Participate in the educational excellence that is available to the students we serve. Make a gift in celebration of the 115th Anniversary of Joliet Junior College today.

Respectfully,

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director of Resource Development
Executive Director of JJC Foundation

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between Joliet Junior College, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, this magazine serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Information is subject to change.

GROWING UP WITH THE FUTURE PRESIDENT



How JJC's First President Balanced Family and Being an Educational Pioneer, Through His Children's Eyes

By Kelly Larson

Well respected in his community, no one may have looked up to Elmer Wells Rowley more than his five children. Dinner in the Rowley home during the 1940's and 50's would often include special guests.

At a crowded table, five young Rowley children gathered as conversations about farming and education swirled around them. Their dad, Elmer Wells Rowley, would spend all day with school administrators and prominent speakers and then invite them into his Lockport home for an evening of educational exchange.

Born in 1909, Elmer Rowley dedicated his life to advancing education. Rowley graduated with high honors from both Joliet Junior College and later, the University of Illinois. He began his career at Joliet Township High School teaching agriculture and within a few years, became the dean of JJC, a position he would hold for 20 years. After a brief retirement, Rowley was selected to become the first president of JJC on August 15, 1967.

Despite feverishly working on initiatives that would forever change the landscape of higher education and community college legislation in the state of Illinois, Rowley seemed to strike the right balance between work and family.

"I was always proud to be a Rowley," daughter Joanne (Rowley) Harvey said. Being well known in the community did not seem to get in the way of a typical childhood. "I felt very much a part of the whole community growing up."

During World War II, the Rowley children would often go canning with their mother, Ruth, while their dad stayed late for meetings. The children agreed that while their dad gave his life to education, they all spent quality time with him. Some of their favorite memories include working on the farm, playing checkers, and listening to his beautiful voice in church.

"JJC meant a lot to him as did his family and church. He was a wonderful father who worked hard at everything and I never saw him come up short on anything," Rowley's daughter Sue, said.



Rowley poses with his first daughter, Joanne Harvey, in 1985.

DEAN DAD

Education was the foundation of the Rowley home.

All five children - Joanne, '54; Jean '55; Sue '59; Carol '60; and John '66 - attended JJC in the years their dad was dean at the college, and perhaps because of that foundation, all went on to become educators themselves.

Of all Harvey's memories, none were told with more joy than a story of a driving trip many years ago. It was 1952 and Harvey was starting her college career. She



L to R: John L. Rowley, '66; Jean Stone, '55; Carol R. Imig, '60; Joanne R. Harvey, '54 attend an alumni brunch honoring their father after a Main Campus road was named after him.

and her dad would carpool to JJC every day in the family Oldsmobile. "It gave us time alone to talk and visit," Harvey said. "He was always a good listener and had the answers to anything I needed."

But it was Dean Rowley who sometimes needed a soundboard during those busy years. "I remember the day he said to me, 'you have such a good memory. Will you remember this for me?' Sometimes we have so much on our minds, which I'm sure he did. Maybe he was thinking he might forget something," Harvey said.

DATING THE DEAN'S DAUGHTER

All four Rowley daughters met their spouses while attending JJC. Harvey met her husband Glenn of 60 years in the JJC choir. Glenn, '53, recalls Rowley chaperoning dances like Sadie Hawkins. "He was a bouncer. He was really good at that!"

Glenn was nervous to date the dean's daughter and was usually on his best behavior. "Her dad kind of looked on me as a city boy not as a good farm boy," Glenn said.

"He was also held in high regard in the farming world. He bought everything used and he used it well. He ran a farm in a way that a lot of people would lose money but he never did. He always made money every time."

THEY CALL MY DAD PRESIDENT

Dean Rowley came out of six weeks retirement to become JJC's first president in 1967 as the college prepared to move to its current Main Campus location on Houbolt Road.

"Dad was destined to be special to others. I loved him dearly. He showed qualities that were unusual," Jean said.

Rowley's son, John, shared that his dad instilled in him the need to work hard and be charitable.

"My pursuit in life has been to try to accomplish perhaps half of what I feel he did for his community and family," he said.

CONNECTING

The Past to the Present

By Michelle Nagy, Sam Ritz and Rachel Rose

As Joliet Junior College looks to the future, it reflects upon the founding principles that have guided the institution through the years - community prosperity, cultural enrichment and lifelong learning.

From humble beginnings at Joliet Township High School, to a collective six campuses that serve more than 38,000 students each year, the nation's first community college has been shaped by the community in which it resides. The halls echo with the footsteps of thousands of students that have benefitted from JJC's student-focused approach to education, from the industrial age of the 1900s to today's technology-driven era. Innovative programs, engaging clubs and organizations, and successful athletics programs have established JJC as an institution of first choice and continue to attract new generations of 'Wolves.'



Journey with us through our rich history in a series of snapshots from the last 115 years, courtesy of the JJC Archives and Robert Sterling's book, Joliet Junior College 1901 to 2001: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College.



Main Campus

THEN: The first Joliet Junior College classes were held at Joliet Township High School in 1901. The school housed 87 rooms and facilities were shared between high school and postgraduate students. As enrollment grew, it became apparent the college needed a separate space to call home. In 1967, preparations began to build a new campus on Houbolt (then Airport) Road. During the transition period, interim facilities consisting of 17 temporary buildings were erected at the new campus location. Construction of the permanent campus was completed in 1974 and included buildings A-H, J and the Bridge. In the years to follow, additional buildings and centers were added to the campus and surrounding areas, including the Fine Arts building (1981), Business and Technology Center (1996), Veterinary Technology/Industrial Training Center (2000) and Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center (2007).

NOW: Today, JJC continues to make improvements to Main Campus as part of the 2008 Master Plan. The Campus Center was opened in 2011 and serves as the new face of JJC. The LEED-registered, three-story structure offers centralized student services, a bookstore, library, cafeteria and administrative offices. Following the construction of The Campus Center, JJC added the Health Professions Building and completed renovations to the automotive, natural sciences and music areas. In the fall of 2015, ground was broken on the new JJC Events Center. Once complete, the building will bring significant upgrades to the JJC athletics and training programs, and bring graduation ceremonies back to Main Campus.





Extended Campuses

THEN: Over the years, additional campuses have been added to the College to better serve the JJC community. A North Campus was established in Bolingbrook in 1975 to accommodate the rapidly expanding Romeoville-Bolingbrook area. In 1993, a permanent Romeoville Campus was built to house these services. Additionally, in the fall of 1980 JJC purchased the Louis Joliet Renaissance Center in downtown Joliet. The campus, eventually renamed City Center Campus, offered both credit and noncredit courses, and a place for JJC culinary students to acquire hands-on experience.

NOW: Construction is underway at both extended campuses. A 50,028 square-foot expansion is in progress at the Romeoville Campus, which will house student services, a bookstore, cafeteria, classrooms and laboratories. A new City Center Campus is also being constructed at the corner of Chicago and Webster Streets in downtown Joliet, directly adjacent to the Renaissance Center. The six-story, 96,000 square-foot campus will house workforce development, GED/ESL training, adult education and culinary arts.

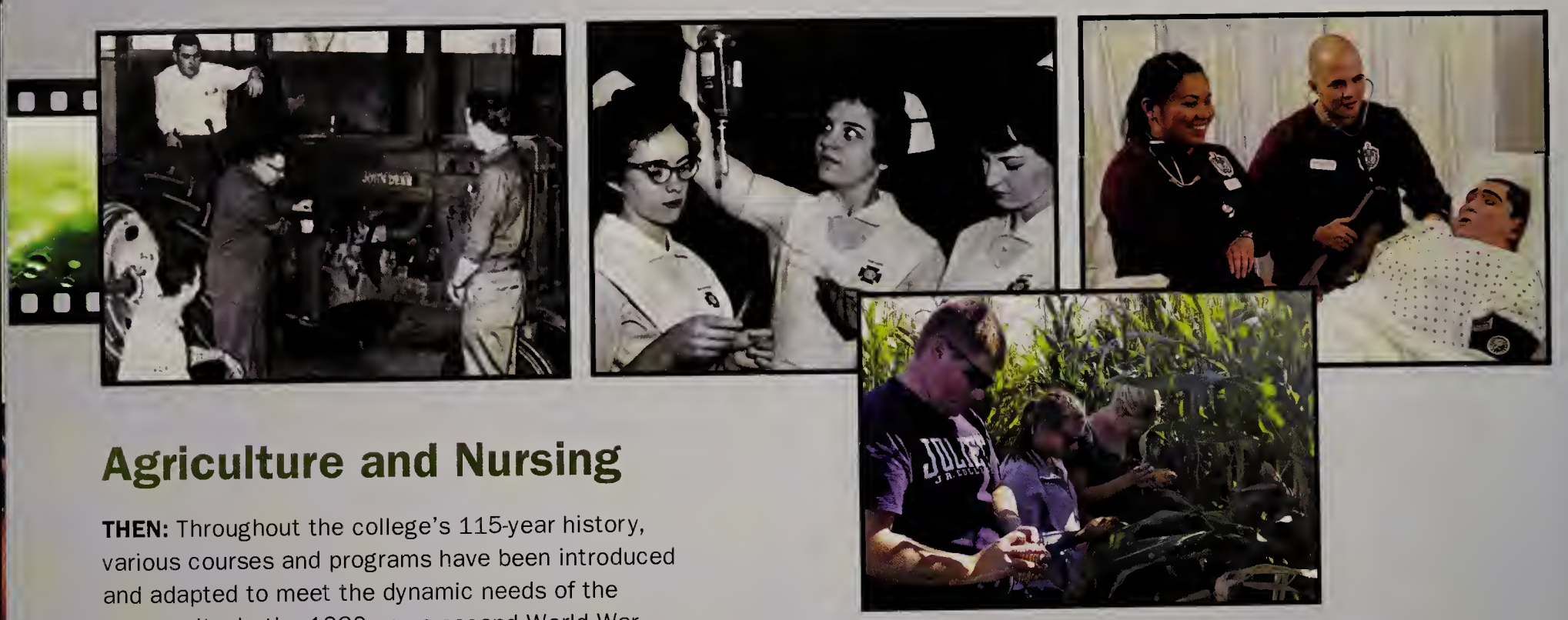
Programs

THEN: When JJC opened its doors in 1901, only postgraduate high school courses were offered, and enrollment topped at just six students. Gradually, additional offerings were added in response to current world events and a growing interest in postsecondary education. A full catalog was introduced in 1920 that outlined six programs: literature and arts, science, engineering, pre-legal, pre-medical and a special program for teachers. Four degrees were offered -- an associate in arts, associate in science, associate in engineering and associate in education. In the 1940s and 1950s the curriculum evolved to be more inclusive of the entire community. Expanded offerings included occupational courses specifically designed for non-transfer students, vocational training and adult continuing education courses. The construction of Main Campus and the college's extended campuses allowed for a steady increase of programs and services from 1960 onward.



NOW: Today, JJC serves more than 38,000 students in credit and noncredit courses. The catalog features more than 60 programs and 180 degrees and certificates. Students can work towards a general education degree, which allows for seamless transfer to a four-year college or university, or earn a career and technical education degree, which allows for career advancement or direct entry to the workforce. Community and Continuing Education courses are also offered for individuals interested in lifelong learning, career training or hobby exploration.





Agriculture and Nursing

THEN: Throughout the college's 115-year history, various courses and programs have been introduced and adapted to meet the dynamic needs of the community. In the 1930s as a second World War loomed, a growing need for trained nurses prompted an agreement with JJC and the local Silver Cross Hospital. Students worked closely with the hospital until 1969, when the college introduced its own associate degree program in nursing. Likewise, in the 1950s to capitalize on the reinvigorated local agri-business industry, JJC introduced the first agriculture program offered by any Illinois community college. Classes included agriculture economics, dairy science, principles of feeding and crop production – many of which are still taught 60 years later.

NOW: Today, the Nursing and Agriculture programs at JJC continue to attract students. The Nursing Department's state-of-the-art facilities and new educational technologies, such as simulation dummies, prepare students to enter the evolving healthcare system as competent practitioners. In recent years, graduates of the program have ranked well above the state average on the National Council Licensure Examination, with JJC RN students earning a 96 percent pass rate on the exam, well above the national average of 86 percent. The Agriculture program has also undergone significant changes since its inception. The program now serves more than 200 students each year and offers three degrees and two certificates. In addition to hands-on learning in many laboratory classes, the program includes a major on-job-training component, in which students are placed for full-time internship experience nationwide.



The 2016 Blazer Staff: Left to Right Adam Tumino, Jarek Martinez, Andrew Hanton, Shanielle Fulton. Elias Albert.

The Blazer

THEN: This photo of The Blazer's staff was taken for the college's yearbook, the J., during JJC's 1930-1931 school year. According to the J., the paper debuted in October 1929 thanks to the enthusiasm of a small group of students, including The Blazer's first editor, Bob Balch. The Blazer quickly became one of the most important parts of JJC life, described as "the liveliest organ of school interest" in 1931. In the beginning, the paper was a small newssheet, but when student Herbert Trackman took over as editor in spring 1931, the paper was expanded to a bigger, four-column sheet. In the early days, the Blazer's sponsor was English professor Lois Hyde. (Interesting Fact: Trackman later went on to become one of JJC's most famous alumni. In 1985, he made a donation that would total $100,000. The majority of his donation would go toward a better operating system for JJC's planetarium, later named the JJC Herbert Trackman Planetarium.)

NOW: Today, the Blazer's staff is still reporting on important news, events and sports around JJC's campuses and education centers. Since the late 1920s, the paper has expanded to 16-pages per publication. In addition to circulating their print edition 10 times a year, the staff manages a website (www.jjcblazer.com). "The Blazer created its first website in September 2006, but switched over to its current platform in fall 2014. The staff also promotes content using social media, such as Twitter and Facebook. One highlight about working for the paper includes the many competitions students can enter in news writing, feature writing, copyediting, page design, and more through organizations such as the Illinois Community College Journalism Association. The adviser for the club is professor Bob Marcink.

Student Council/Student Government



THEN: According to Robert Sterling's "Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College," JJC students were only considered "post-graduates" of Joliet Township High School until 1916. At that point, Superintendent J. Stanley Brown officially designated them as "collegians," which granted them new privileges and allowed them more separation from the high school. One of the privileges included starting their own student council (comprised of a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary). This photo, taken in 1921, is the earliest recorded picture of the JJC student council. The student council's job was to oversee activities and represent interests of the college. The student council would eventually be revamped on April 11, 1928, to include representatives from several college clubs, such as the first and second year French Clubs, College Club, Women's Athletic Association and men's athletics.

NOW: Today, it is called Student Government, and boasts more than 20 members. In addition to the four positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, today's Student Government includes a Centennial Commons representative; two Extended Campus representatives; a diversity representative; the JJC student trustee; and 12 representatives at large. Like the first student council members, Student Government's purpose is to gather and represent the opinions, rights and interests of JJC's student population. The group also serves as a vehicle of communication for students, faculty, staff, administration and the Board of Trustees.





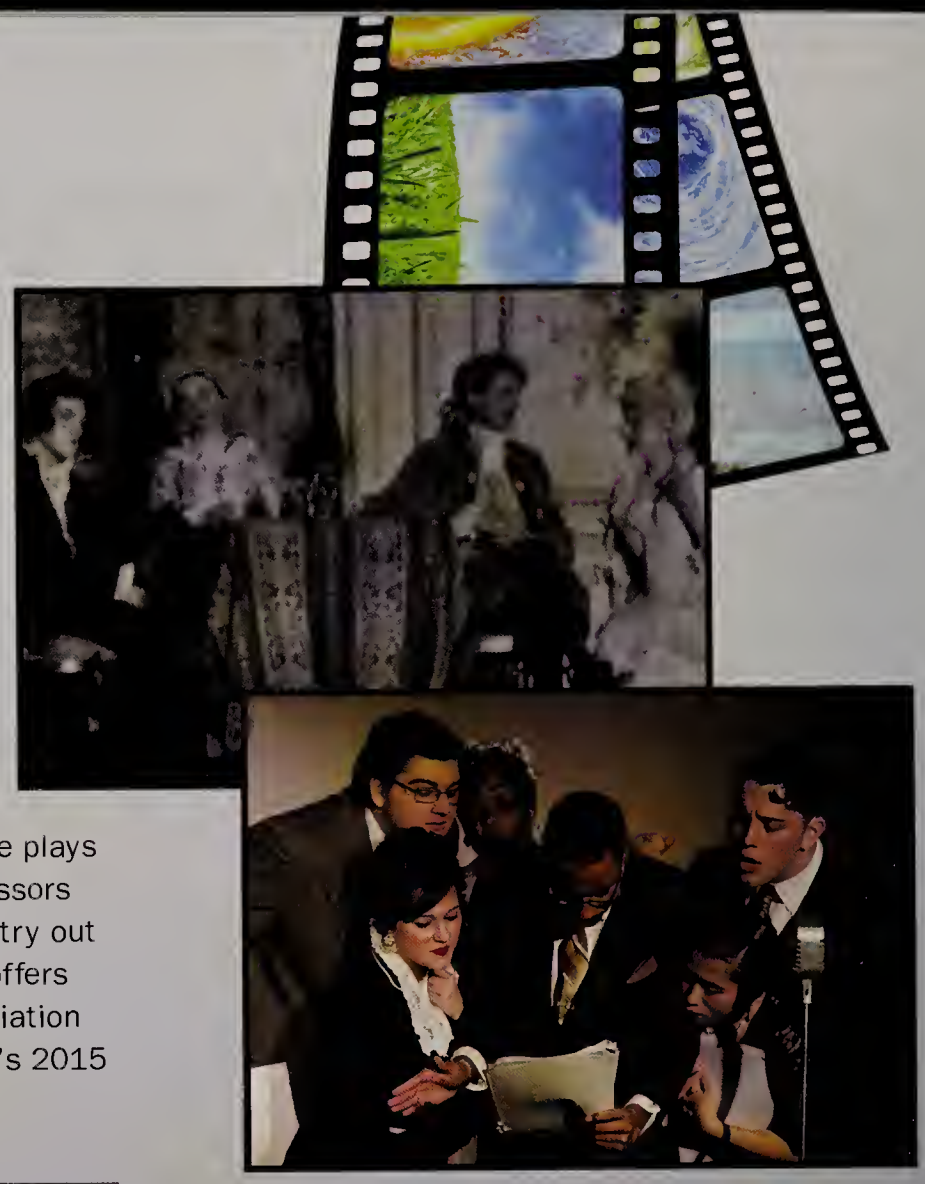


Instrumental Ensembles

THEN: Then called the Junior College Orchestra, JJC's first organized instrumental ensemble was created thanks to music professor E.B. Brockett during the 1934-35 school year. During that year, the group played several times for the College Club (a JJC group in charge of organizing social events and improving campus life), for the high school, and for commencement. Practice was held twice a week. According to the 1936 JJC yearbook, Mr. Brockett was well-known in many music circles and received a degree from Northwestern University.

NOW: Today, the college has expanded its music program and has four instrumental ensembles: the Community Band (100 members), Jazz Band, and Guitar Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Each group hosts their own performances year round, but the most popular concerts occur at the end of each semester. The Community Band is under the direction of Professor Charles Morgan; the Jazz Band is under the direction of Professor Rich Moore; and the Guitar and Percussion Ensembles are led by Fine Arts Associate Professors Adam Roth and Adam Cowger.

Plays



THEN: Plays have always been an important part of JJC's culture – even from the very beginning. The first noted play, put on by the post-graduate students of Joliet Junior College, took place in 1907, when students performed "David Garrick," a three-act comedy-drama about real-life English actor David Garrick. According to the Joliet Township High School yearbook, The Jollier, the performance was organized to help raise money for the High School Alumni Association, so that they could build a statue of French-Canadian explorer Louis Joliet over the entrance of the high school. The play was a huge success, and raised enough funds for the statue, which still stands today.

NOW: Today, the Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department hosts three plays and one musical each year, directed by a variety of JJC Fine Arts professors with notable experience. Community members are also encouraged to try out for the plays. In addition to the performances, JJC's Theatre program offers a courses such as acting, oral interpretation, directing, theatre appreciation and technical theatre. This photo illustrates the Fine Arts Department's 2015 play, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."

Athletics



1909 women's basketball team

THEN: When JJC began more than 100 years ago, athletic programs were considered an essential part of students' education - and regarded to be as important as time in the classroom. From traditional sports like baseball, basketball, football, wrestling, track and golf, to more uncommon team activities like horseback riding and rifle teams, JJC has had a rich history of diverse athletic opportunities. For female students, basketball was offered as early as 1905, but it wasn't until 1925 that the Women's Athletic Association was formed to formally ensure that women had adequate access to athletic programs. Over the years, their efforts proved a success as there were teams for women that included swimming, basketball, horseback riding, golf, tennis, volleyball, and even shuffleboard and tap dancing. The early years of JJC athletics were also marked by the arrival of Aubrey A. "Fizz" Wills in 1928 to coach men's basketball and baseball; Wills would go on to have a nearly 40 –year career as a much beloved coach who left an indelible mark on JJC athletic history, with a record of 668 victories and only 198 losses.



1931 men's golf team



1937 women's rifle club



2003-2004 women's basketball team



1951 men's football team



2002 national championship football team

NOW: Over the decades, JJC's men and women's athletic teams have garnered more victories and accolades than can be mentioned – regional, state, national, and even some international. The athletic program even boasts several NJCAA Academic All-Americans, an individual achievement that demonstrates the dedication of student athletes both in the classroom and in their sports. Currently, JJC is proud to offer a great variety of sports for both male and female athletes which include baseball, basketball, cross-country, soccer, cheerleading/dance, softball and volleyball. In fact, the college has demonstrated its commitment to the future of high-quality athletic programs with the building of the JJC Events Center, which will be completed in 2017. The facility will provide much needed space for athletic competitions, practice, and conditioning space.



1929 men's baseball team



2008 national championship baseball team



1931 men's basketball team



1963-64 men's wrestling team

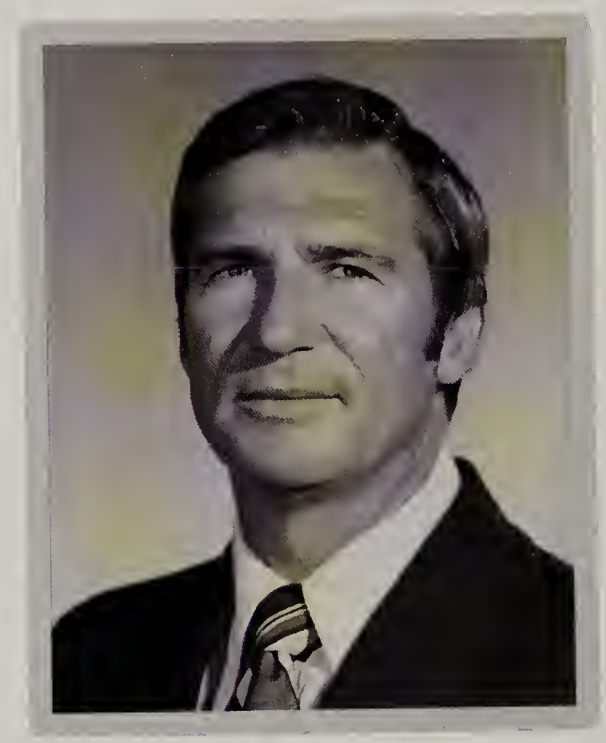


2010 national championship men's basketball team



1931 women's riding club

People Then and Now



Dr. Harold McAninch

THEN

Dr. Harold D. McAninch became the second president of Joliet Junior College in 1971. During his eight years as president, many firsts were initiated, including the Alumni Association ('70), JJC Foundation ('73) and the completion of the Main Campus. In 1976, the college commemorated its 75th anniversary and to mark the occasion, McAninch sent a letter dated January 30, 1976 to then-President Gerald Ford to attend that year's graduation ceremony. Although President Ford did not attend, many high ranking officials visited the campus that year. Also during his time at JJC, Dr. McAninch and his colleagues worked on accreditation and helped to pass a tax referendum which received an overwhelming response.

NOW

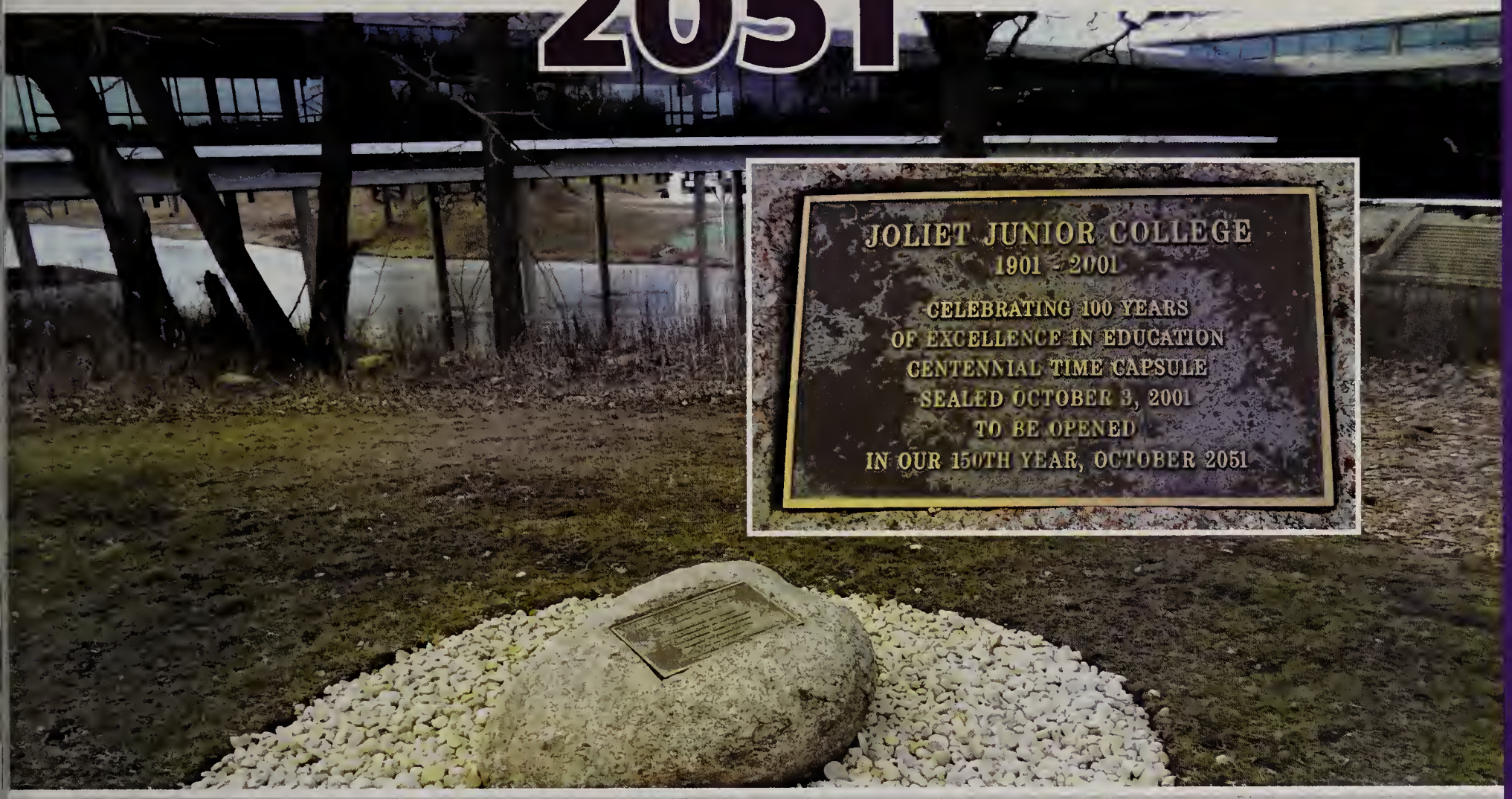


For nearly 40 years, Dr. McAninch has made significant contributions to higher education, as both a senior administrator and college president. In addition to eight years as president of JJC, his assignments include two years as president of Jackson Community College and 15 years as president at the College of DuPage. After retiring from COD for a mere 17 days, McAninch became interim president and chancellor for Dundalk Community College in Maryland.

Since retiring in 1998, Harold and his wife of 60 years split their time between Naperville, Illinois and Mesa, Arizona. Today at the age of 83, the Chicago Cubs and Bears fan enjoys volunteering at the Mesa Arch Center, exercising in "Silver Sneakers" twice a week, and attending movies and plays. He and his wife, Karyl, also enjoy spending time with their neighborhood group once a month. While in Illinois, Dr. McAninch spends his time attending his grandchildren's sporting activities.

Dr. McAninch's career includes leadership positions on professional, community, and civic organizations, notably serving as former board chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). His work includes an impressive list of articles published in higher education journals and many professional presentations.

Encapsulating THE PAST FOR THE CLASS OF 2051



By Rachel Rose

As JJC celebrates its 115th year, it seems appropriate to reflect on our history of milestone dates—the college has held celebrations for its 50th and 75th anniversaries, and in 2001, recognized its centennial birthday.

College officials planned a number of celebrations and special events that spanned the entire year to honor the 100th anniversary of the nation's first public community college.

Perhaps what sets the centennial celebration apart from other similar recognitions was the creation and burial of a time capsule. Then-president J.D. Ross recalled that the time capsule was conceived as a fun way was to commemorate the centennial, but also, he said, it was intended to "serve as a reminder to those who would open it just how far they would have come since 2001."

Items were collected from departments throughout the college to include in the time capsule. In a statement to the Herald News in 2001, Centennial Celebration Events Specialist Lisa Hellman said the had included things like "the centennial calendars, a CD from our Fine Arts department and pins from the Nursing and Alumni Associations."

The burial of the time capsule had long been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11. However, it was postponed due to the shocking and tragic events surrounding the attack on the World Trade Center that day.

"It was a very somber day," Ross recalled. "Most of us could not believe what we were seeing. We had TV monitors in the hall along the C-G concourse and many students, faculty and staff, who were not in class or their offices, were watching closely."

When the time capsule burial event was held later that fall, a few dozen faculty, staff and community members gathered to place items in the vault, which was donated by the Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home.

The vault is buried on the south side of the JJC Lake at the Main Campus, near the bridge and the tree line that runs along the lake. A boulder with an engraved plaque marks the spot, with an inscription calling for the time capsule to be resurrected in 2051, 50 years from its burial date.

JJC and Congressman Foster Host Employer Roundtable with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu



Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu (center) visits the JJC welding lab with instructor Greg Pakieser, left, and Congressman Bill Foster, right.

By Kelly Rohder

The college partnered with U.S. Congressman Bill Foster to bring U.S. Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu to campus in August 2015 to have a roundtable discussion on the skills gap and workforce issues with area employers. State Rep. Natalie Manley, State Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Rep. Larry Walsh, Jr., and Will County Executive Larry Walsh, Sr. also attended.

> "Will County has been a bright spot in dealing with the problem of the skills gap."
> -Bill Foster

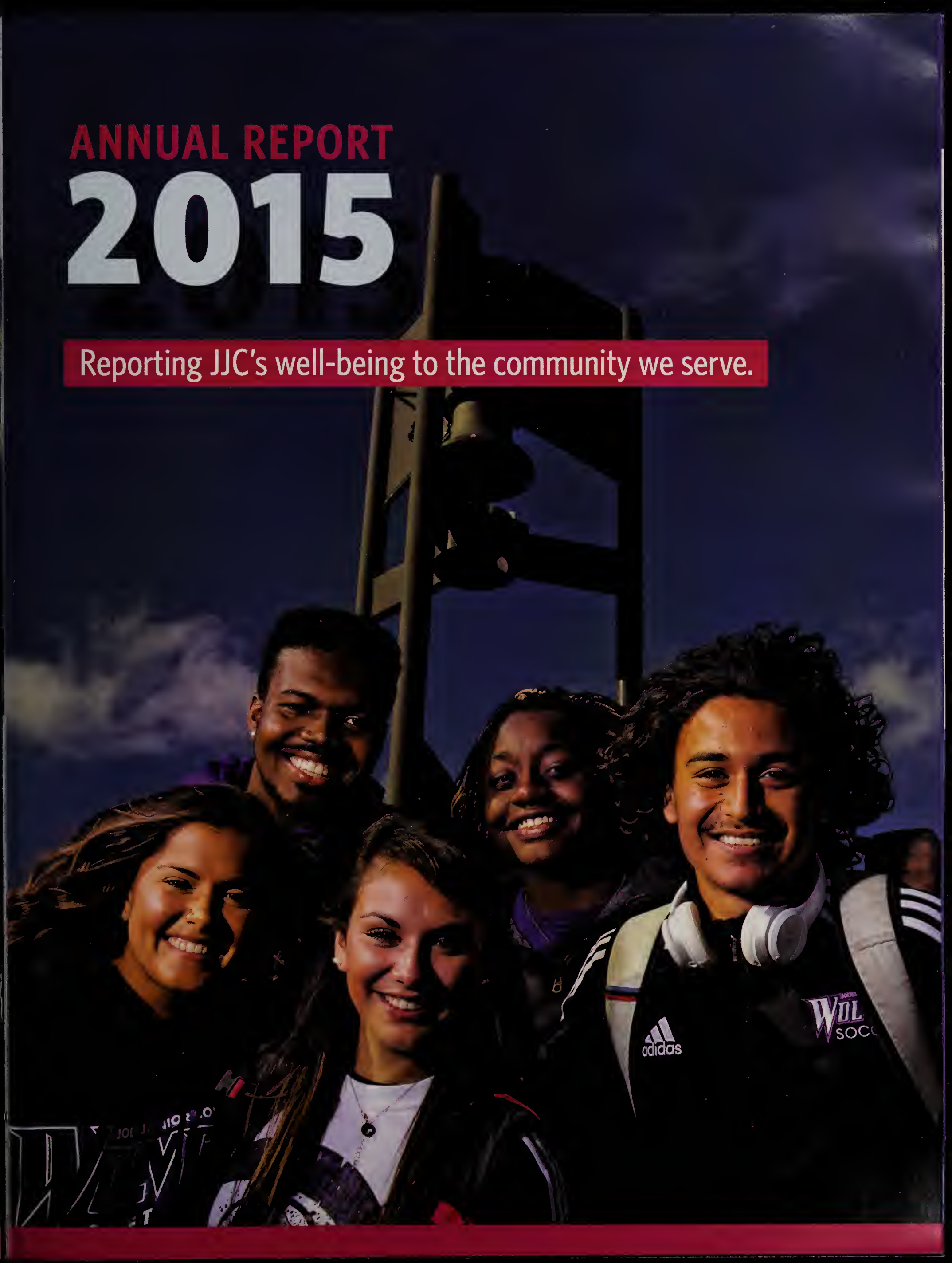
"Will County has been a bright spot in dealing with the problem of the skills gap," said Foster. "Educational institutions, such as JJC, local government, and the business and workforce community have come together to provide an environment for students to get the skills they need to become productive workers and climb the ladder into the middle class. By working together, and listening to each other's needs, the next generation of workers will be better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century economy. I'm glad U.S. Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu was able to see the work being done on the ground."

Approximately 20 area employers, legislators and educational partners participated in the roundtable discussion.

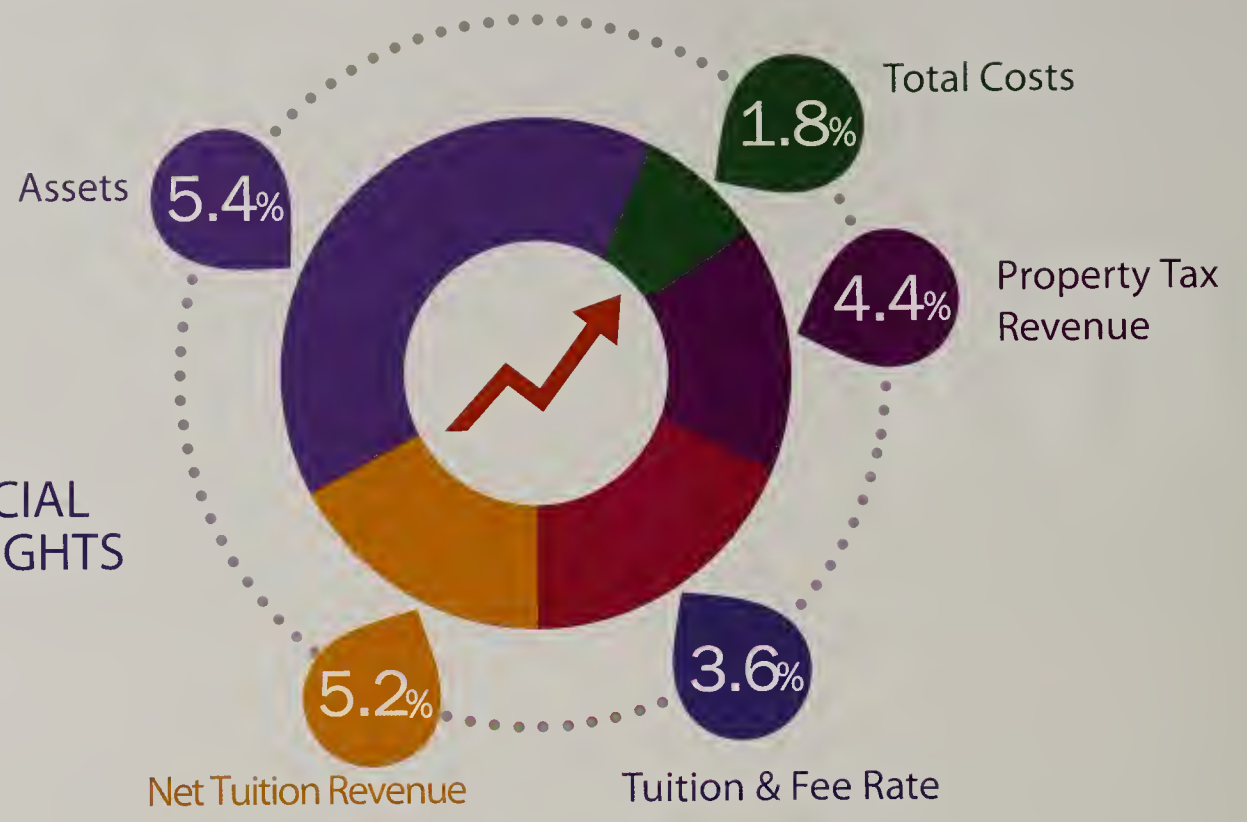
Following that, Secretary Lu toured some of JJC's technical labs, which included the remodeled welding lab with new machines and virtual welders, and the recently upgraded CNC and manual machining labs. All of these upgrades occurred thanks to funding from a federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCCT) the college received in 2012.

ANNUAL REPORT
2015

Reporting JJC's well-being to the community we serve.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



The District's financial status continues to be strong despite economic conditions. Net position increased 5.4% over the course of the year and new construction in the District increased property tax revenue by 4.4% in fiscal 2015.

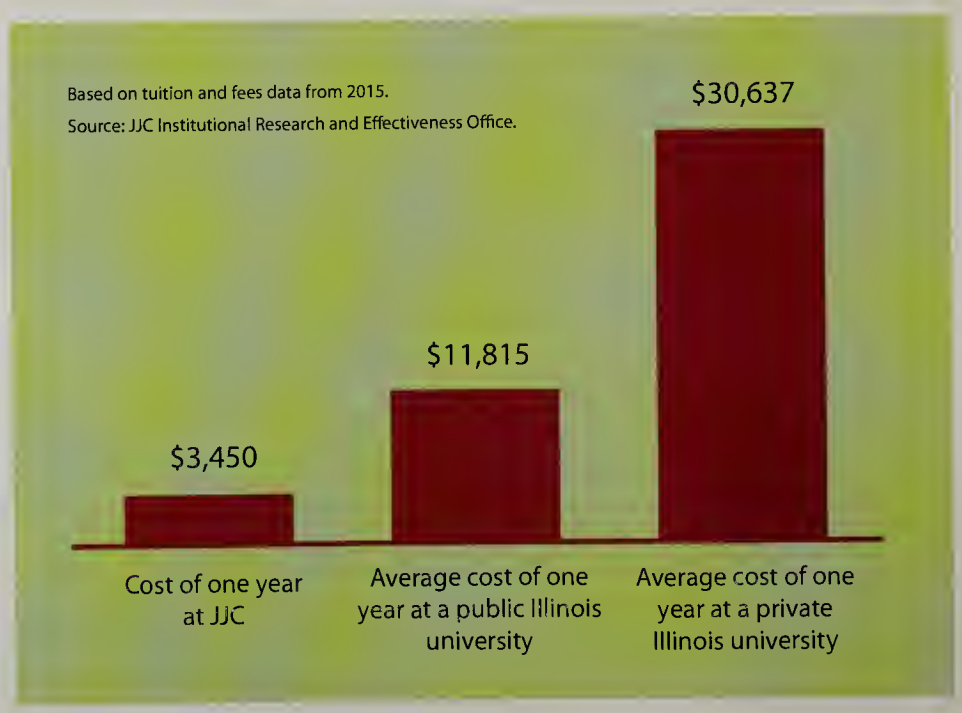
Overall revenues were $146.3 million, $6.7 million more than expenses.

Total costs increased by approximately 1.8% because of budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, the on-behalf pension contribution from the State of Illinois, depreciation and interest expenses.

Net tuition revenue increased by 5.2% due to a decrease in scholarships and tuition allowances and a 3.6% increase in the tuition and fee rate that was offset by a decrease in in credit hours.

A quality education at JJC is affordable

Students can save between $16,000-$54,000 by attending JJC for their first two years of college, compared to a four-year public or private institution.



For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2015	2014	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$94.4	$104.3	$(9.4)	-9.0%
Capital Assest	189.2	190.0	(0.8)	-0.4%
Non-current Assest	92.4	83.0	9.4	11.3%
Total Assets	376.5	377.3	(0.8)	-0.2%
Current Liabilities	30.0	31.6	(1.6)	-5.1%
Long-Term Liabilities	216.6	222.5	(5.9)	-2.7%
Total Liabilities	246.6	254.1	(7.5)	-3.0%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets,				
Net of Related Debt	43.1	42.1	1.0	2.4%
Restricted	43.1	40.4	2.7	6.7%
Unrestricted	43.7	40.7	3.0	7.4%
Total Net Assets	**$129.9**	**$123.2**	**$6.7**	**5.4%**

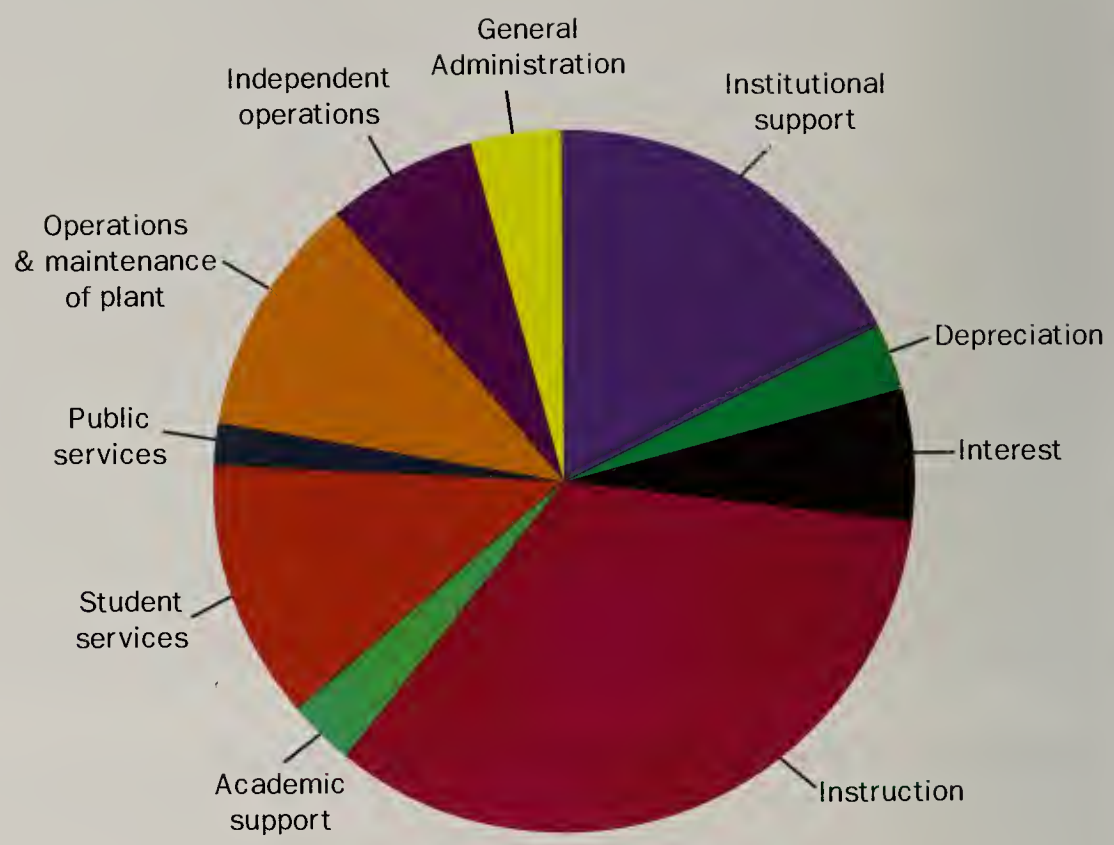
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $139.6 million. The district's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services which were $63 million or 45.1 percent of total expenses.

	2015	2014	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$39.8	$39.6	$0.2	0.5%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(11.5)	(12.7)	1.2	-9.4%
Net Tuition & Fees	28.3	26.9	1.4	5.2%
Sales & Service Fees	8.4	8.9	(0.5)	-5.6%
Miscellaneous	0.9	1.1	(0.2)	-18.2%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	54.6	52.3	2.3	4.4%
State & Federal Sources	51.1	53.5	(2.4)	-4.5%
Other	3.0	3.7	(0.7)	-18.9%
Total Revenues	**$146.3**	**$146.4**	**($0.1)**	**-0.1%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	44.1	44.1	-	0.0%
Academic Support	3.8	3.5	0.3	8.6%
Student Services	12.8	13.4	(0.6)	-4.5%
Public Services	2.3	1.8	0.5	27.8%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	12.0	12.1	(0.1)	-0.8%
Independent Operations	8.5	9.2	(0.7)	-7.6%
General Administration	5.2	4.8	0.4	8.3%
Institutional Support	31.4	29.2	2.2	7.5%
Depreciation	8.2	7.9	0.3	3.8%
Interest	11.3	11.1	0.2	1.8%
Total Expenses	**$139.6**	**$137.1**	**$2.5**	**1.8%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$123.2**	**$113.9**		
End of Year	**$129.9**	**$123.2**		
Increase in Net Assets	**$6.7**	**$9.3**	**$(2.6)**	

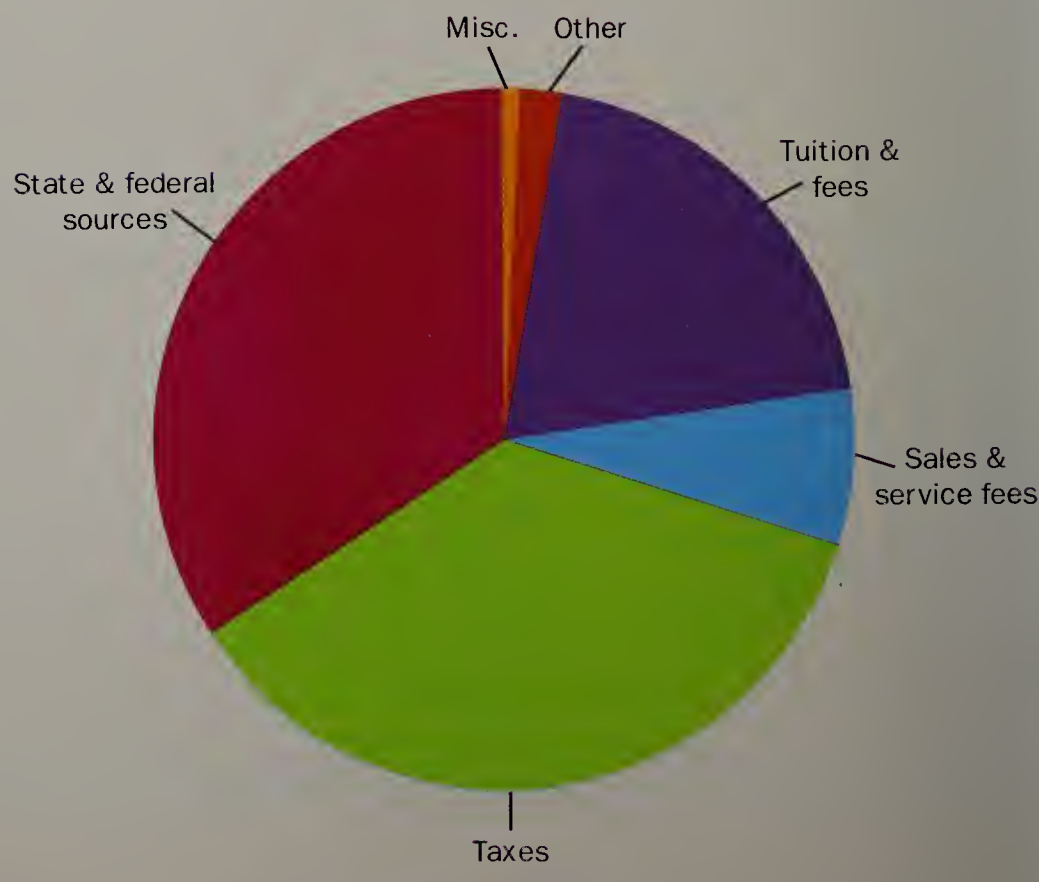
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2015

Instruction	**31%**
Academic Support	**3%**
Student Services	**9%**
Public Services	**2%**
Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**9%**
Independent Operations	**6%**
General Administration	**4%**
Institutional Support	**22%**
Depreciation	**6%**
Interest	**8%**



Revenue for Fiscal Year 2015

Tuition and Fees	**19%**
Miscellaneous	**1%**
Other	**2%**
Taxes	**37%**
Sales and Service Fees	**6%**
State and Federal Sources	**35%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Judith DeVriendt

Foundation President

Looking back on the past year and a half since I became president of the JJC Foundation, so many moments have served as vivid reminders of the importance of the Foundation's service to the college. A major example of this is the Foundation's support of over $800,000 in scholarship awards to JJC students.

Additionally, the Foundation supports merit scholarships of $2,750 available to students from all 29 high schools feeding into JJC's community college District 525. These top students most often become involved with the college's Honors Program and most become very active in the services that are available inside and outside of the classroom.

I have witnessed a board full of volunteers that not only give of their time to this institution but also support the many academic programs and equipment financially with their generous gifts. We welcomed new members to the board last year. Let me introduce Mr. Phillip Cunningham, technical manager for LyondellBasell Equistar Chemical, LP; Donna Theimer, a JJC retiree from the Horticulture Program; and Scott Glasscock, a retired farmer (yes, you may have heard of Glasscock's Corn!).

This annual report reflects the commitment that the Foundation board and community donors have contributed to make a positive impact on the educational excellence that has been historic for Joliet Junior College. Happy 115th Anniversary JJC! The Foundation is proud to support the country's first community college.

To make a gift, contact JJC Foundation Executive Director Kristin Mulvey at kmulvey@jjc.edu or (815) 582-6532.

Sincerely,
Judith DeVriendt,
JJC Foundation President



Phillip Cunningham



Donna Theimer



Scott Glasscock

Statement of Activities (June 30, 2015 and 2014)

	2015	2014
Total Current Assets	19,289,844	19,459,046
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,000
Total Assets	20,049,844	20,219,046
Total Current Liabilities	7,228	423,976
Total Net Assets	20,042,616	19,795,070
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	20,049,844	20,219,046

Statement of Financial Position (June 30, 2015 and 2014)

	2015	2014
Total Revenues	1,896,336	3,460,774
Total Expenses	1,648,790	1,491,057
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	19,795,070	17,825,353
End of Fiscal Year	20,042,616	19,795,070
Endowment	11,426,971	10,681,233
Investments	18,993,838	18,848,625
Annual Contributions	1,533,261	974,329
Scholarships Awarded	848,078	794,760

Thank You To Our Donors

Visionaries - ($10,000.00 +)

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Those who gave $250 or more are listed here. For a complete list, see www.jjc.edu/foundation/Pages/list-donors.aspx

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JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901
FOUNDATION

Match your Gift to JJC

Increase your gift to Joliet Junior College through the matching gifts program. Many companies will match their employees' donations to charitable organizations.

Some companies require signed originals, but others may accept faxed forms—please check with your employer to be sure before you fax over your claim form.

Matching gifts count toward donor recognition levels. As long as the match amount is received by December 31, you will receive credit for that calendar year.

To find out if your company has a matching gifts policy, visit **www.matchinggifts.com/jjc**.

If your company does provide a matching gift claim form, please complete it and send it to:

Joliet Junior College Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938
Fax: (815) 280-6618

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director
kmulvey@jjc.edu
(815) 280-2353

New Multimillion Dollar Federal Grant Supports Student Success Programs

By Rachel Rose



Dr. Yolanda Isaacs, vice president of student development, and Sarena Schott, director of developmental education, are two of JJC's leaders overseeing the implementation of the grant.

Last fall, Joliet Junior College received a $2.1 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Strengthening Institutions Program, a significant achievement that will help the college fulfill its goal of improving student engagement, achievement, persistence and completion.

The grant will support the college's "Progressive Pathways to Student Success" initiative, in which the college will focus on three major components through the grant: improving student support services, increasing academic innovation in developmental education courses, and enhancing student communication technology.

In the first year of the grant, JJC will receive $413,956. Over five years, the total of the grant is expected to be $2.1 million.

Dr. Yolanda Isaacs, vice president of student development, is excited for the opportunity to strengthen the college's infrastructure.

"With hard work and dedication from employees all across the college, we will see clear results from this initiative that will positively impact the success of our students," she said. "This grant will allow us to build tools that keep our students better engaged in the learning process, and when students are better engaged, it's proven they have a much better chance of succeeding in their academic goals."

For example, a one-stop portal or intranet will be developed where students can access information and resources critical to their continued academic success at JJC.

"Whether they want to explore a different major, take career assessment tests or set up an appointment with an adviser, this portal will provide them easy and instant access," said Isaacs.

JJC's new 2016-2019 strategic plan and strategic enrollment management plan, which were launched last year, both focus on student success initiatives, making the federal grant a timely award for the college.

Isaacs and Director of Developmental Education Sarena Schott, along with a taskforce of JJC employees, are leading the steering efforts for the grant's cross-institutional implementation. In addition, to ensure the success and completion of these large-scale objectives, the College will hire a grant-funded business analyst this spring who will coordinate all grant-related initiatives, and ensure the benchmarks outlined in the grant for each of the five years the funds will be dispersed.

"Ultimately, the improvement I hope to see as a result of this grant is that we will retain more students due to clearer pathways, and more students will complete their education goals," said Schott.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

A Sustainable Institution of Educational Excellence: It All Started—and Continues—in Joliet!

Remembering JJC's Golden, Diamond & Centennial Anniversary Years

By Amy Chellino



Faculty member Paul Johnson welcomed students, staff, legislators, and educational leaders from across the state to JJC's 75th anniversary gathering.

"We knew we had something a little bit special—but we didn't know how special, or what was to grow out of it...[W]hen I hear someone talk about the growth of the junior college and the tremendous contribution it is making to the education of our citizens I always want to shout: 'Yes, and it all started in Joliet!'" wrote alum Eleanor Metheny in a letter dated August 15, 1951. This letter was a reply to the invitation she received about JJC's 50th Anniversary celebration. This year, as JJC celebrates its 115th year as the intellectual heart of our community, we reminisce about past celebrations highlighting momentous anniversaries.

In 1951, Joliet Junior College celebrated its 50th Anniversary. A Golden Anniversary banquet was held in the cafeteria for $2 a plate. Retired faculty shared their memories. A skit was performed by students, a pantomimic comedy was presented by a history instructor followed by group singing. Alumni who could not attend sent letters and telegrams of congratulations. Alum B. Leighton Wellman remarked in an August 1951 letter, "I have always been very proud of my attendance at Joliet Junior College, and have never missed an opportunity to praise it...[T]he instruction and guidance I received there was truly the finest I have ever had."

Similar sentiments were to follow when the college recognized its 75th year with a Diamond Jubilee.

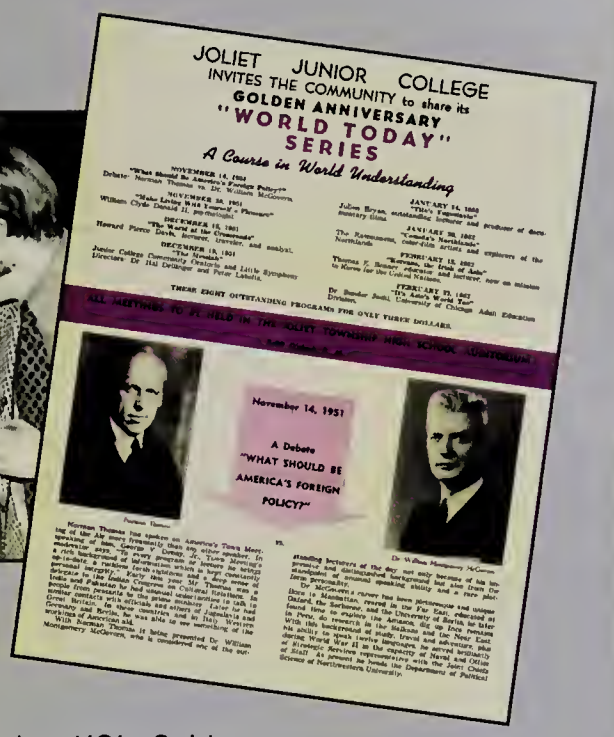
"It is a journey that will remind us that we didn't show up yesterday or the day before, but we evolved with the community and the nation through a great transition: one that has radically altered our lives," chairman of the Diamond Jubilee committee, Joe McLennan, voiced to "The Blazer," JJC's student newspaper during that anniversary year.

On April 8, 1976, the Diamond Jubilee drew 750 attendees including students, staff, alumni, legislators and educational leaders from across the state. Speaker Dr. Sidney R. Marland, president of the College Entrance Examination Board, attributed the growth of community colleges to "the ability to respond quickly and adequately to the needs of the communities they serve."

During the celebration, a telegram from President Gerald Ford was read. "As the first community college of this country, Joliet has been a guide and inspiration to many others...It has also been a primary agent for sound educational change...It has offered young and old alike the opportunity to further their education in new and imaginative ways," President Ford stated. A message from Illinois Governor Dan Walker proclaimed April







8th as "Joliet Junior College Day" throughout the state. Additional events celebrating the Diamond Anniversary were an Americana buffet catered by the culinary arts students, a JJC Jazz Band concert, a women's week recognizing the development of women's progress in the nation titled "Women! Past-Present-Future," a new bell tower and dedication ceremony, a Senior Citizens Day and construction of ecology trails on campus.

For the Centennial, a year-long celebration began on January 13, 2001 with speeches from state representatives, past college presidents, congressmen and community college associations. JJC was praised for pioneering the community college movement and thriving through the first hundred years.

"One hundred years have passed since J. Stanley Brown started a post-secondary educational program at Joliet Township High School that was based on a concept developed and nurtured by Dr. William Rainey Harper ...While it is doubtful that either man fully understood the magnitude of this new creation we now call the community college, it has evolved into a truly unique segment of American education...We at Joliet Junior College are proud that our college is the nation's oldest," then JJC President J.D. Ross wrote in the book "Joliet Junior College: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College."

Centennial Plaza was dedicated and the community could purchase personalized bricks to pave this engaging outdoor seating area. The Centennial Awards, $1,800 scholarships, were presented to 26 children in 1987 to be used to cover tuition at JJC during the college's centennial year. A Centennial Gala Finale was celebrated on February 9, 2002 at the Renaissance Center in downtown Joliet. Guests were treated to a cocktail concert with entertainment from the JJC Jazz Quintet, special remarks from JJC President J.D. Ross, dinner and dancing. A commemorative coin and calendar served as mementos of this exceptional yearlong anniversary celebration. The introduction to the calendar stated, "Nearly 100 years have passed for Joliet Junior College, but this is only a starting point....The college will continue to grow, year by year, student by student, to develop leaders for the future."

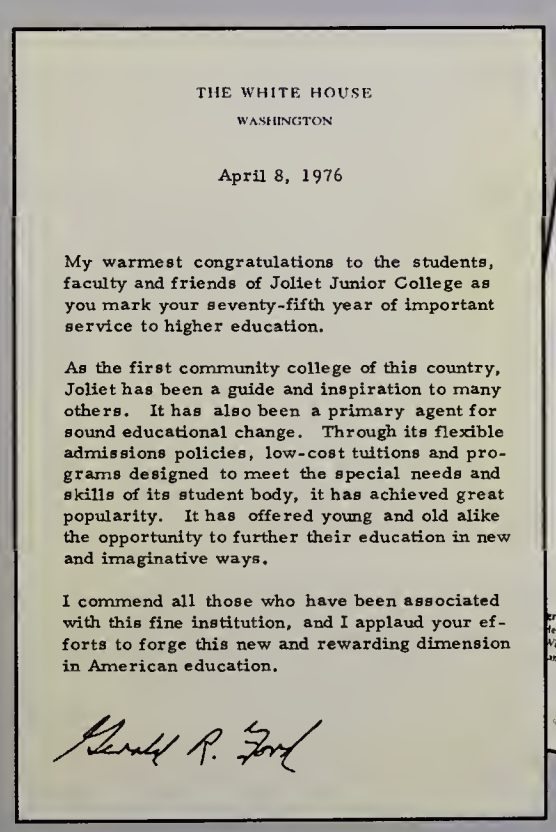
Today, as we look back on the past 115 years, JJC has been the center of education, leadership, culture, lifelong learning, and enrichment in our collective communities.

In fact, a message taken from the convocation program during JJC's Golden Anniversary in 1951 seems equally as relevant today as it was then.

It reads, "the education and experience junior college gives, lives on in thousands of lives...[JJC] will reflect back a greater training, and a clearer knowledge of an increasingly complicated world."

We honor the people, past and present, who have made this 115th anniversary possible. We salute the administration who have contributed their vision, the faculty who have imparted their knowledge, the staff who have kept the campuses running smoothly, the students who have shared their experiences to make the classroom a diverse place for learning, the alumni who carry the quality education that JJC provides into our community, state, country and world, and our generous donors who make dreams a reality. Because of your dedication and support, JJC will continue to strive, evolve and be a sustainable institution of educational excellence for years to come.

"Learning should be a lifelong experience, and it hopefully will be for those who are affiliated with Joliet Junior College" (Diamond Jubilee document from the archives, 1976).



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

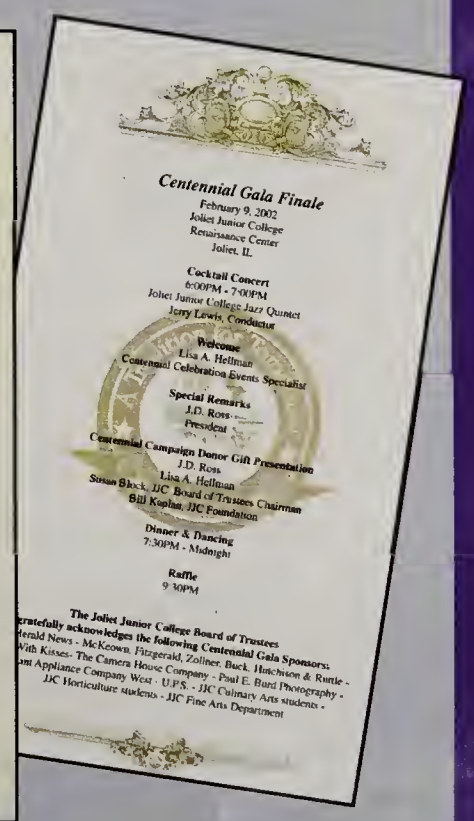
April 8, 1976

My warmest congratulations to the students, faculty and friends of Joliet Junior College as you mark your seventy-fifth year of important service to higher education.

As the first community college of this country, Joliet has been a guide and inspiration to many others. It has also been a primary agent for sound educational change. Through its flexible admissions policies, low-cost tuitions and programs designed to meet the special needs and skills of its student body, it has achieved great popularity. It has offered young and old alike the opportunity to further their education in new and imaginative ways.

I commend all those who have been associated with this fine institution, and I applaud your efforts to forge this new and rewarding dimension in American education.

Gerald R. Ford



News Briefs



Runners complete the 2015 5K. Be sure to save the date for the 2016 Haunted 5K, which will be held on Sunday, Oct. 23.

JJC Raises $40,000 for Scholarships, Athletics at Haunted 5K

The Joliet Junior College Foundation and Athletics Department had a good run the first time they partnered together to host a 5K to raise funds for scholarships, college programs and athletics in October.

Raising a total of $40,300, more than 400 participants of all ages registered for the event, some of which dressed in spirited Halloween costumes, playing along with the theme of a "haunted" 5K.

A Halloween-themed trophy was granted to the top overall male winner, Robert Anderson, 24, of Tinley Park, and female winner, Gabby Kics, 10, of Shorewood. The top three winners in each age and gender category received a plaque or a medal, and a trophy was awarded to the fastest runner in costume.

This event raised $4,000 more than the Foundation's standalone 5K, which was held in May 2014.

Since the Foundation began hosting the annual 5K seven years ago, a total of $199,800 has been raised for scholarships and other college programs.

For race results, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k. For more information about the JJC Foundation, visit www.jjc.edu/foundation, and for more on the Athletics Department visit www.jjc.edu/athletics.

JJC Veterinary Medical Technology Students Head to Belize

This spring, 10 JJC students will embark on the learning experience of a lifetime through the Veterinary Medical Technology Belize Study Abroad program.

The program will introduce students to key topics in wildlife medicine in Central and South America. Students will learn about the role of veterinarians in wildlife conservation, zoo medicine, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. In addition to classroom instruction at the Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic, students will work hand-in-hand with veterinarians to care for the area's tropical inhabitants.

"We are so excited to apply our practical skills, while being immersed in a unique cultural environment. We're most looking forward to working with wildlife species we otherwise wouldn't have encountered, and to be working alongside classmates we've bonded with during the vet tech program." said JJC student Kirsten Pufahl.

This trip marks the first time the opportunity has been extended to students, due in part to the efforts of Associate Professor and CVT Eileen McKee of the Veterinary Medical Technology program.

"As a long supporter of JJC's international education endeavors, I wanted to develop a hand-on study abroad opportunity for my vet tech students interested in wildlife conservation. I feel that this experience will help transform my students into global citizens who act responsibly and ethically in an ever changing world" said McKee.



Students will administer aid to a number of tropical animals during the two-week Veterinary Medical Technology Belize Study Abroad program.



Jeff May accepts a recognition plaque for his years of service from Trustee Mike O'Connell.

JJC Board Welcomes Four New Trustees in 2015

Over the past year, the JJC Board of Trustees has undergone several changes, welcoming new members and saying goodbye to others.

In the April 2015 election, Maureen Broderick won a seat over incumbent Sue Klen, and longtime trustee Robert Wunderlich retained his seat for another six-year term, making him the longest-serving trustee in JJC history, having held a position on the board since 1977. Wunderlich currently serves as chairman of the board and is the owner of Wunderlich Builders.

Before her election to the JJC Board, Broderick, of New Lenox, previously served 12 years on the New Lenox School Board District 122. During that time, she spent four years as the board finance chair. She has worked for nearly 40 years in banking, specializing in mortgage lending.

"My belief as a trustee is that it's important I ensure fiscal responsibility for District 525," Broderick, who is currently secretary of the board, said. "Trustees should be in the balcony, so to speak—we develop a vision for the college which ultimately supports student and employee success."

Broderick earned a bachelor's degree from Lewis University in biochemistry.

In July 2015, then chairman Jeff May resigned from the board due to health concerns, and was replaced by Dan O'Connell of Joliet through an appointment process. O'Connell previously served as a JJC trustee from 2007-2013 and has been an attorney in Will County for over 30 years. May was honored for his nearly 16 years of service at a fall 2015 board meeting.

"I take my greatest joy in the day-to-day planning for student success with the board and staff," May said. "It was great spending time with bright, articulate, talented and dedicated people."

At the October 2015 meeting, trustees voted to approve the appointment of two new board members. Alicia Morales and Patricia Deiters were selected by the board out of 48 individuals who applied to fill two vacancies created in August when Tina Markley and Barbara Adams left their positions.



Alicia Morales

Deiters, of New Lenox, and Morales, of Joliet, are both former JJC students. Morales earned an associate degree in Marketing Management from JJC and then transferred to the University of St. Francis (USF) to earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's of Business Administration.



Patricia Deiters

"I'm honored to be here," said Morales, who graduated in 2001 from the college. "JJC has grown so much since I was a student, and I'm happy to be a part of the growth and the leadership."

Morales also said that she felt it was an honor to be the first Hispanic-American woman appointed to the JJC board.



Maureen Broderick

Deiters currently works in Mokena and helps individuals and businesses manage their retirement and benefit plans. In her application, Deiters shared her experience as a JJC transfer student who ultimately earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in political science.

"I'm excited to get started," said Deiters, who attended JJC in the early 90s. "JJC has a lot to offer the community."

The rest of the JJC Board of Trustees include Andy Mihelich of Joliet, vice chair; Michael O'Connell of Elwood; and Saleh Ruman of Joliet, student trustee.

News Briefs



Students, administrators and Wiley the Wolf celebrate the groundbreaking of the JJC Events Center.

College Breaks Ground on JJC Events Center, Romeoville Campus Expansion

Two major construction projects were launched in 2015 as part of the college's *Master Plan* update.

The JJC Events Center Project Breaks Ground and Receives a New Name

More than one hundred people, including students, community members, local legislators and college employees attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Multipurpose Facility on Aug. 25.

"A fieldhouse has not only been in our recent master plan, but actually began when I came to school here in the fall of 1969," said JJC Trustee Mike O'Connell, speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees. "This project is one of the final pieces of the puzzle for Main Campus."

Longtime JJC Athletic Director Wayne L. King, Jr. also expressed his enthusiasm for the facility getting underway. "I've been waiting for this day for 30 years," he said. "It's something that is really going to develop our athletic program and our athletes."

The new building, which is scheduled for completion in 2017 and which will be constructed on the southwest side of Main Campus adjacent to the athletic fields, will feature:

- Two basketball courts
- Configuration options for competition basketball and volleyball tournaments
- Portable batting cages
- Bleachers and seating (to accommodate both athletic competitions and graduation ceremonies)
- Athletic staff office spaces
- Presentation room
- Conditioning space

In February 2016, the JJC Board of Trustees voted to officially name the building the JJC Events Center, based on results from a survey asking students, JJC employees, and community members to suggest new names for the building. Out of the hundreds of suggestions, the JJC Events Center received the most votes.

Romeoville Campus Project Breaks Ground

On Sept. 8, approximately 50 students, employees, elected officials and community members celebrated the groundbreaking for JJC's expansion project on the Romeoville Campus.

The new building, the first major construction on the college's Romeoville Campus since it opened in 1993, will add more than 49,000 square feet to the campus, where enrollment has grown 45 percent in the last 10 years. It is expected to be completed in 2017. The two-story facility will include:

- Student services
- Bookstore
- Cafeteria
- Classrooms
- Laboratories
- Space for campus police
- Faculty offices



L-R: Trustee Andy Mihelich, Trustee Mike O'Connell, President Dr. Debra Daniels, Trustee Robert Wunderlich and Romeoville Mayor John Noak.

The intent of the expansion is to make the existing Romeoville Campus a full-service campus by creating space for student support services in addition to more classroom space.

JJC Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Wunderlich, speaking on behalf of the board, said that it is the role of the board to respond to the needs of the community, and that the new addition to Romeoville Campus meets that need.

"We are expanding this campus to help you meet your educational goals, whatever those may be," he said.
The college's funding strategy for both buildings includes a $45 million bond issue and a $4 capital assessment fee increase, which was approved by trustees in August 2013.

Attend an Event at JJC





JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

SAVE THE DATE
35th Annual Alumni Brunch
Sunday, June 5, 11 a.m.

Honoring the classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Achievement and Susan H. Wood Award recipients.

Joliet Junior College Main Campus, U-Building Auditorium
Email klarson@jjc.edu for more information.

Athletic Department Golf Outing
Friday, July 15, 9 a.m.
Inwood Golf Course and Traditions Pub

JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk
Sunday, October 23
8:30 a.m. - 1 Mile Kids Monster Dash
9 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

Race and sponsorship information, visit www.jjc.edu/info/5k.



Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer. For more information, contact the Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium.

Tuesday Shows – 7 p.m.

May 10	Larry Cat in Space*
May 24	Mars
June 7	Sun Struck

Thursday Shows - 7 p.m.

May 5	Seasonal Skies
May 19	The Solar System
June 2	Larry Cat in Space*
June 16	The X-Planets Discovering Other Earths

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

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Joliet, IL 60431-8938

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**

Chef James "Jimmy" Nadell, a 1980 graduate, is an award winning culinary mastermind and the owner and CEO of Bravo Fine Catering in Aspen, Colorado. The celebrity chef has appeared on many local, national and international cooking shows including "The Bravo Kitchen Show with Jimmy Nadell." He is an author, television host and caters to dignitaries, celebrities, and entertainers/athletes.

Chef Nadell, founder and CEO of the United States Chef Association, is a two-time Gold medal award recipient for his lifelong dedication to international gastronomy.



WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

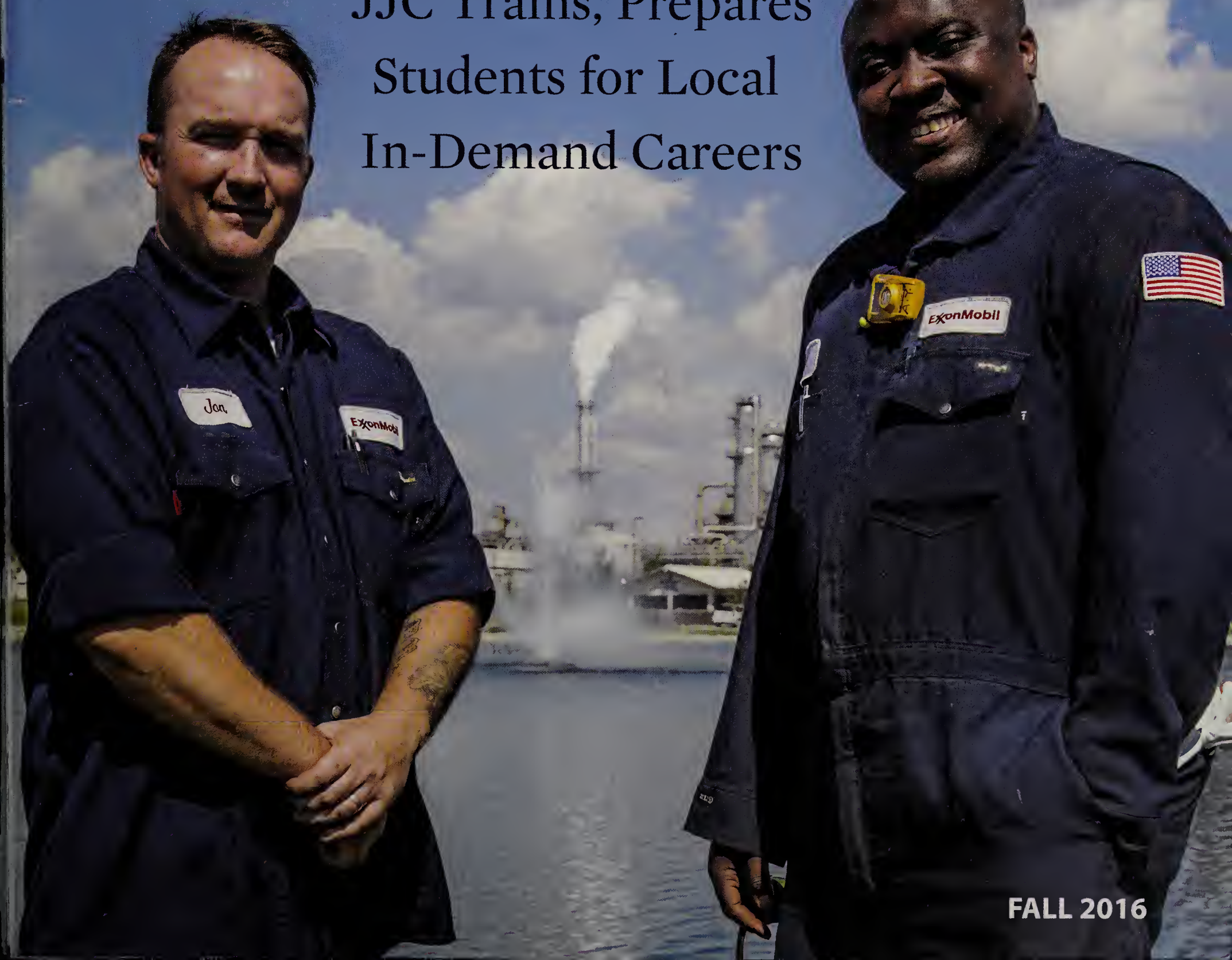
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
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joliet junior college magazine

BUILDING A PIPELINE

JJC Trains, Prepares Students for Local In-Demand Careers



FALL 2016

Who's going to do it?

In the next few years, the U.S. will need millions more engineers and technology workers just to keep pace with demand. Who's going to fill those jobs? Today's students. That's why ExxonMobil invests so much in math and science-related programs – to ensure our kids have the skills for 21st-century jobs. Because what we invest in our kids today will pay off for the whole nation tomorrow.

ExxonMobil

Energy lives here™



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JJC Holds Inaugural State of the College Event

The event recapped recent accomplishments, the college's future vision, and highlighted valuable community partnerships.



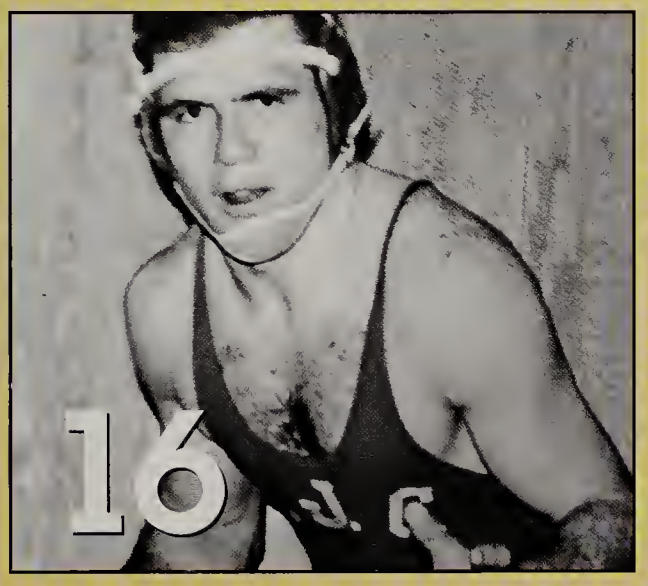
Building a Pipeline

Iyot Simpson and Jon Kerr trained in JJC's Industrial Maintenance Technology program and are now enjoying successful careers at ExxonMobil.



Dr. Judy Mitchell: From Returning Adult Student to President

Follow JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell's journey as she began taking college classes for the first time at JJC as a working mom in the 1990s, to being appointed as the college's ninth president 20 years later.



Wrestling Program May Return to JJC in 2017

After many successful wrestling seasons from the 1960s until the program discontinued in the late 1980s, the community now wants to help JJC bring the sport back to campus.



Military Veteran Couple Studies Nursing Together at JJC

Husband and wife duo Michael and Cristina Hill have taken every single class together - and now that they're officially in the nursing program, they aren't going to let anything stop them from achieving their goals.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear JJC supporters,

We have had an extraordinary spring and summer season! Perhaps you attended the spring commencement ceremony, made it out to one of our JJC Farmers Markets, attended our inaugural State of the College event, or joined in the celebration of our annual Alumni Brunch. Whatever your connection to JJC, I appreciate your engagement and support!

On a personal level, I am excited and humbled to share that in September, the JJC Board of Trustees unanimously appointed me as the ninth president of the college. As many of you know, I served as interim president since March 2016. I was truly overcome by how much public support I received from students, community members, faculty, and staff and their confidence in me. My promise to you is that I will lead the college into the future and I will give my all to ensure that the college is an innovative, supportive, and quality institution to meet the needs of our campus community.

As we do with every issue of *Connections*, we focus on a theme that embodies our mission and serves as the foundation for each story we bring you. Within this issue, we're emphasizing opportunity, and the opportunity the college provides to its students, its alumni, its employees, and so many more. We discussed opportunity at the State of the College event held in August (you can read more about it on pg. 6) and stressed how critical partnerships with our external stakeholders are in creating these opportunities.



Take for example the JJC students featured on our cover. Jon and Iyot, who were trained in our Industrial Maintenance Technology program, are now employed at ExxonMobil in flourishing careers. ExxonMobil is a valuable partner to JJC through generous donations as well as providing our students with internship opportunities to develop their workplace experiences.

Not to mention, I'm extremely proud to share with you that our graduation rate has increased. **Student success is everyone's business!** I believe that our low tuition rates and the great planning and initiatives spelled out in our Strategic Enrollment Management Plan contribute to the success we have had over the past five years. Our number of graduates has increased by 34.7 percent, from 1,382 in 2011 to 1,861 in 2015.

My philosophy is simple, that our people are our best assets. I believe strongly in supporting JJC employees to encourage positive morale and in turn, our employees providing excellent service to our students to help them succeed. I also believe that external stakeholders play a significant role in making the college a successful educational and economic engine that drives growth in our region.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to making Joliet Junior College your first choice.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Relationships are important at Joliet Junior College and taking the time to build and nurture them is a top priority in the Resource Development Office. From generous alumni who donate through their last will and testament to valuable corporate partnerships that generate funds to support annual scholarships, the relationships we build allow us to enhance programs and services that bring innovation in teaching and learning and unique opportunities to the students we serve.

In March of 2007, the JJC Foundation was honored to receive over $4.3 million dollars from the Estate of Vera C. Smith. The Smith Sustaining Endowment provides interest that the Foundation uses to support special projects that align with the mission of the college and the intent of the donor, Vera Smith. This fall, $28,800 was awarded by the Foundation's Vera Smith Endowment Fund committee to our Career Services Department so that both internal and external internships would be available for our students. Six of the 10 internships will be awarded to various college departments that do not have a budgeted student worker and four of the internships will be available for our students to work at local not-for-profit agencies in our district. The external internships will help local not-for-profit agencies receive additional staff at a time when state funding is being cut. It gives our students the opportunity to work at a local agency that supports our community.

Through the Foundation's Award For Excellence Program, $50,000 was awarded to several college projects which include support for the very popular Musica Viva Concert Series, JJC's Farmers Market, MakerLab supplies, cultural excursions for our international students, recruitment and display materials for the agriculture program, tuition support for students with children using our Early Child Care Center, Anti-Stigma Symposium, Accessibility Station for the Library, a Film Festival for Fine Arts, and support Career Coach marketing and recruitment materials for Workforce Development.

I am also excited to share that the college initiated the new JJC Legacy Program this fall to support students who are the children or legal dependents of JJC alumni. We want to help these students reach their goals by providing financial support--up to $400--for three consecutive semesters. Through this program, we're encouraging students to invest in JJC by enrolling at the college, completing their degree or program, and perform well academically. In turn, JJC will invest in students by providing funding to support their persistence, retention, and success. If you're interested in more information, please reach out to Dr. Yolanda Isaacs, vice president of student development, at yisaacs@jjc.edu.

The relationships the college builds in our communities strengthens the overall quality of life of our district, and they engage our future graduates with prospective employers. Relationships strengthen education at all levels.

Thank you for your support of JJC and we look forward to building new relationships with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director of Resource Development

JJC District 525 Board of Trustees

Robert Wunderlich, *Chair*
Andy Mihelich, *Vice Chair*
Maureen Broderick, *Secretary*
Patricia Deiters
Kathleen Duong, *Student Trustee*
Alicia Morales
Dan O'Connell
Mike O'Connell

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Ramsey Mallory, *'90*
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Daniel Warning, *'06*
Ericka Williams, *'08*
Marie Wilson *'63*

Information is subject to change.

A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

JJC Holds Inaugural State of the College Event

by Kelly Rohder



JJC Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich welcomes the audience to the State of the College address.

The college held its first-ever State of the College on Aug. 11, an event geared toward external stakeholders to share recent accomplishments, the college's future vision, and highlight valuable community partnerships. Part of the vision to host the event stemmed from the college's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, which prioritizes collaboration with employers and the community as well as improving community awareness and strategic marketing.

JJC began in 1901 with six students; today, the college welcomes 35,000 students annually in both credit and non-credit courses. The college is also a major employer in the Will County region, employing nearly 1,500 people.

JJC Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich opened the event with a reflection on the college's progress and evolution during his years as a trustee.

"I've been a trustee at the college for nearly 40 years. I've seen JJC evolve into the institution it is today — a college with state-of-the-art facilities, innovations in academics, and a key resource for generations of traditional students, non-traditional students, local businesses and organizations," Wunderlich said. "While so many things have changed — people, locations, the number of students, etc. — what has remained the same is our dedication to be your first choice."

An Illinois Senate Recognition honoring JJC for 115 years of educational excellence was also read and presented on behalf of Senator Pat McGuire.

JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell presented progress on the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, the FY17 budget, new programs, and significant partnerships with business and industry, including new partnerships with various organizations, including CITGO refinery.

Number of JJC Graduates are Increasing

The class of 2015 saw an increase to the number of graduates to 1,861 up 7.4% over the prior year.

+34.7%



Over the past five years JJC has seen the number of graduates increase by 34.7% up from 1,382 (+479).

"People are our best assets. I believe strongly in supporting JJC employees to encourage positive morale and in turn, our employees providing excellent service to our students to help them succeed. I also believe that external stakeholders like each one of you in our audience today play a significant role in making the college a successful educational and economic engine that drives growth in our region," Mitchell said. "You are critical partners in helping us meet our mission, and today I will give you a snapshot of how our collective efforts have led to innovations in programs, opportunities, resources and so much more."

Mitchell shared enrollment successes, including increased graduation numbers and persistence rates. The number of JJC graduates have increased by 34.7 percent, from 1,382 in 2011 to 1,861 in 2015. The college's persistence rates, which monitor the rate at which students continue their studies from the fall to spring semester, also increased. College data shows that seven out of ten returned from fall 2015 to spring 2016.

"Student success is everyone's business and I believe that our low tuition rates and the great planning and initiatives spelled out in our Strategic Enrollment Management Plan contribute to the success we have had over the past five years," she said.

Local refinery CITGO recently funded a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) grant for $20,000 and $250,000 to fund an endowed scholarship. Both will provide financial assistance to students majoring in Process Control Instrumentation, Operations Engineering Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology, and Electrical/ Electronic Automated Systems.

With the STEM grant, the college developed a new STEM Academy which will provide several workshops, speaking engagements, opportunities to participate in STEM-specific competitions, and career exploration fairs.

Throughout the proposed year of STEM-related enrichment activities, the college anticipates educating over 1,000 youth ranging in age from 5 to 18 and over 50 middle and high school faculty members.

"We believe that students need to be exposed to the various career options earlier, and this type of program helps facilitate the coursework a student would take in high school in preparation for post-secondary education," Mitchell said. "Please know that all of your donations are significant to the success of our program and to our students. It is our role to educate and train a skilled workforce with the state-of-the art curriculum and tools. Your gifts make that happen."

Persistence and Completion On The Rise

Nearly 7 out of 10 students attending in the Fall 2015 term returned to JJC in Spring 2016. Over the past five fiscal years JJC has graduated nearly 35% more students and increased the number of awards by more than 20%.



68.8% Returned (Fall 2015 to Spring 2016)

BUILDING A PIPELINE

JJC Trains, Prepares Students for Local In-Demand Careers

by Rachel Rose

After serving as a combat engineer in the United States Army for six years, Jon Kerr needed to find a civilian career that utilized some of the skills he had learned in the Army. He thought about the pumps and machinery at a refinery like ExxonMobil, and took the requisite test twice to apply for a position. He didn't get called back.

Undeterred, but knowing he needed a new plan, he decided to go to Joliet Junior College and study in the Industrial Maintenance Technology (IMT) program, which he knew, from its community reputation, could give him an advantage in getting a job at ExxonMobil. And within his first year in the program, he was in fact accepted into the IMT internship program at ExxonMobil, which was shortly followed by a fulltime job offer before he had even graduated JJC.

"I cannot say enough about the opportunities that opened up for me through the IMT program," Kerr said. "Jeff Bradford is an amazing teacher, and you can tell that JJC cares about placing us into jobs."

Now a machinist in the ExxonMobil machine shop, Kerr is confident he's found a career he absolutely loves, not something that's easy to find when transitioning to civilian life from military life in his mid-30s. He said that he loves that no day is the same in his job, and that he's been able to form a bond with his colleagues in the machine shop that reminds him of his friendships in the Army.

"Our job can be dangerous, working with all the machinery in our plant, so it's important to work with people you trust," he said. "I'm lucky to work with an amazing team, and we also have a lot of fun."

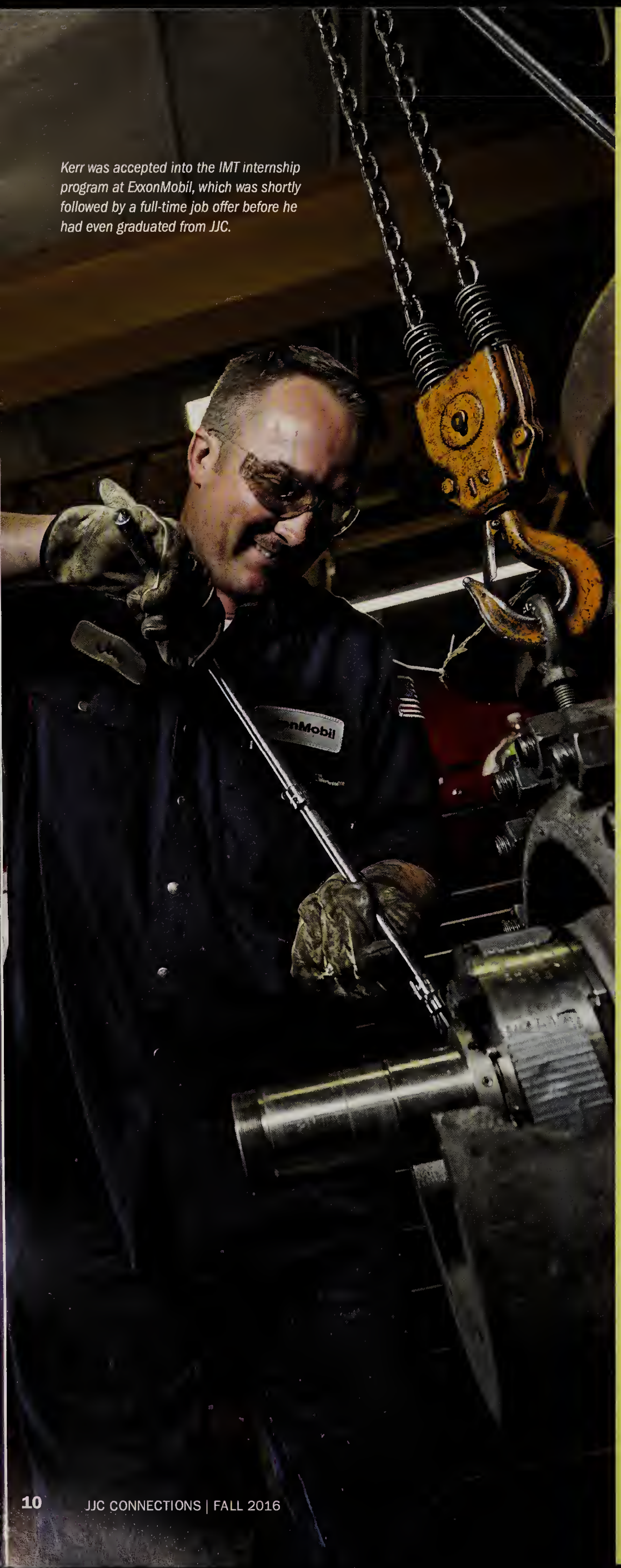
Prior to joining the Army, Kerr had gone to a four-year university, but said he didn't find that his time there prepared him in the least for a career. "I didn't feel that the professors cared about our futures," he said. "In the IMT program, I felt that every step of every class was preparing me for my future career."

Dr. Jeff Bradford, who has been running the IMT program at JJC for almost 20 years, is intentional about that. He prioritizes employer input in formulating his classes, and through his advisory board, continually seeks to adjust things as needed in the classroom.

"I talk to employers regularly," he said. "Their number one concern is the lack of qualified employees in the community."



Simpson and Kerr pose in the ExxonMobil machine shop in the Joliet refinery, where they spend the majority of their work day.



Kerr was accepted into the IMT internship program at ExxonMobil, which was shortly followed by a full-time job offer before he had even graduated from JJC.

For ExxonMobil, as a major employer in the Joliet area, the program has proven successful.

"Partnering with Joliet Junior College provides a pipeline of future employees, which is important for the success of the ExxonMobil Refinery in Joliet," said Refinery Manager Monica Mainland. "At our facility, we don't just have jobs, we have career opportunities that require very specific skills, education and training. The JJC IMT program prepares students very well for these careers in a competitive, dynamic marketplace and gives them an advantage in the application process over applicants who have not been through JJC's program."

Every year over the eight years JJC has had an established internship program with ExxonMobil, Bradford said the company has pulled in one or two students for internships, and has then in turn hired nearly every single one.

That internship, in fact, just as it was for Kerr, proved to be a life-changer for another JJC student, Iyot "A.Y." Simpson.

Simpson was already working in industrial maintenance at a plant in Chicago, where he worked incredibly long, hard hours. He came to JJC to expand his knowledge base by studying in the IMT program.

"I was not looking for a new job," he said. "I had a tough job, but it paid well and I was on my way to becoming a master mechanic. But Professor Bradford kept encouraging me to try for the ExxonMobil internship, so I did."

It was a risky move for Simpson, who was supporting a family, to leave a well-paying job for a part-time internship with no benefits. But today, now employed fulltime with ExxonMobil, he says with great confidence that it was absolutely the right move for him to make.

Now, Simpson and Kerr are machinists in the ExxonMobil machine shop, and they both say they absolutely love it. They start each morning with a team meeting, discussing and planning what needs to be done for the day. Sometimes it involves "break-in" work; pumps that need to be fixed and replaced immediately to keep certain parts of the plant functional. Or it might involve preventative maintenance work.



Simpson said he sees himself in this career long term. "Besides the many benefits of working here, I really liked the guys I worked with, which helped immensely with the transition. I will gladly recommend this career path to anyone I can," he said.

"I see myself in this career long term," Simpson said. "Besides the many benefits of working here, I really liked the guys I worked with, which helped immensely with the transition. I will gladly recommend this career path to anyone I can."

Bradford said that the reason the IMT program exists is to provide marketable skills to students. "When international companies such as ExxonMobil seek our students out, it suggests that we are doing things well."

Part of helping students find the career that is best for them is taking the time to learn their individual goals and talents. Bradford said he saw the potential in both men to do well in the ExxonMobil program, and is glad he pushed them both to do it.

"As I got to know Iyot and understand the conditions he was working under prior to ExxonMobil, I realized he was a great candidate for an ExxonMobil internship. He showed great courage by leaving a full-time job with benefits to take a part-time job with none. I knew he'd be successful, and he has been," Bradford said.

As for Kerr, Bradford (a fellow veteran) recognized that Kerr's military background and the inherent respect and discipline learned in the military would help him be successful.

"While in school, Jon completed assignments on time and with an attention to detail," he said. "This is something I try to instill in my students; for Jon it was natural. I also cite his humor as a huge part of his success. In class and on the job, we almost always work with others. Making people laugh helps to keep the stress in check."

Beyond the IMT program, creating career opportunities for students is a priority for Bradford, who is also the chair of the entire Technical Department at JJC, which includes Architecture, CADD, HVAC, Automotive, and Orthotics and Prosthetics, and more.

Bradford hopes to provide even more internships for students in the future, and is excited to be working on a new internship program with ExxonMobil that will also include opportunities for students in the welding program.

"Students gain so much from the experience of working, albeit briefly, in the field. It allows them a lens to view their future before having to fully commit. Employers, by participating, get to find potential new employees."

Dr. Judy Mitchell: From Returning Adult Student to College President

by Sam Ritz



JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell is pictured among JJC Welcome Week activities on Aug. 25, 2016.

It's a story familiar to many of our students here at Joliet Junior College. A working mom chooses to go back to school never having set foot in a college classroom before. She yearns to reach her highest potential and find her passion by taking night classes while still working her day job to help provide for her family.

Endless possibilities lay before her. She knows going back to school was the right choice. And even though it's challenging balancing her responsibilities at home, work, and school, she has the support she needs from her professors in JJC's CIOS Department, her counselor, Laura Conrad, and her family.

More than 20 years later, that same working mom (now grandmother) no longer sits in the classroom taking notes. Instead, she sits in the JJC President's Office, taking care of the very college that helped her get her start.

"This college has invested so much into me as both a student and as an employee," said JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell. "JJC put me on a successful path,

and for that I am so grateful. That's why I'm passionate about our college and our goal of helping our students succeed. I believe our most important asset is our people: the students, and our faculty and staff who are all working toward helping our students accomplish their goals."

Mitchell, who was appointed to the position after Dr. Debra Daniels resigned in March 2016, remains a relatable and approachable figure to those around her – perhaps because she has first-hand experience as a student, staff member and administrator of the college.

"This college has invested so much into me as both a student and as an employee."

Dr. Mitchell

In 1996, Mitchell accepted her first position at JJC as an administrative assistant for the CIOS Department. After receiving an associate degree from JJC, her professor Ram Raghuraman and her counselor encouraged her to transfer and work toward a bachelor's degree. Mitchell registered for classes at Governor's State University shortly after.

As she pursued her studies, her focus changed from technology to business. In 2002, she applied for a position in JJC's Business Office, and was offered a job as the college's purchasing coordinator in administrative services. By this time, she had received her bachelor's degree, but her supervisor encouraged her to go back for her master's. So she did.

She worked her way up to director of Business and Auxiliary Services at JJC in 2004, where she gained more responsibility and fine-tuned her leadership skills. In that role, Mitchell managed a team, and oversaw the college's Early Childhood Center, Bookstore, Renaissance Center banquet operation, JJC Food Services, and more.

After eight years, she was promoted to Vice President of Administrative Services, where she was responsible for pursuing the goals outlined in the college's master plan and the operations for all of JJC's campuses and education centers. That same year she also received her Ed.D. from National-Louis University.



Dr. Mitchell reads a story to children in the JJC Early Childhood Education Center (ECC) in 2012. From 2004 to 2011, Mitchell worked as JJC's director of Business and Auxiliary Services, where one of her responsibilities included overseeing the ECC.



Dr. Mitchell converses with student trustee Kathleen Duong during Welcome Week activities.



Dr. Mitchell gets to know a few JJC students during Welcome Week activities.



To kick off the fall semester, Dr. Mitchell was featured in a music video involving faculty, staff and students to start the semester on a positive note. The video was based on Justin Timberlake's hit song, "Can't Stop the Feeling."



Golf has always been a hobby for Dr. Mitchell. In this photo, she's pictured with fellow co-workers at the 2010 JJC Foundation golf outing.



One of the first events Dr. Mitchell participated in as the college's interim president was an open house to celebrate JJC's new MakerLab in March 2016. She's pictured here conversing with U.S. Congressman Bill Foster (right) and JJC MakerLab Technician Steven Mark (left).

Mitchell said if it wasn't for the support she received from her colleagues at JJC, she might not have gone on to pursue her advanced degrees. As president, she's honored to be working at an institution that holds such a special place in her heart – and now it's her time to give back.

"My goals are very much in line with what this college has always stood for – supporting student success, meeting the needs of our ever-changing student population, staying in touch with the latest technology to better prepare our students for the workforce, and serving our community by meeting the needs of the local workforce," she said.

Another goal Mitchell has is to help guide the college through the uncertainty of the Illinois state budget – as receiving full funding is still undetermined for any higher education institution in Illinois.

Mitchell's advice for current students is to make their education a priority and to give it their all – because in the end, it can be life-changing. After all, she wouldn't be where she is today without having made the decision to go back to school as a working mom.

"My advice to students is, you need persistence and determination," she said. "Set goals, move forward. Don't look back. Know that you can do it and believe in yourself. Be respectful of others. And always appreciate the help you receive throughout the process."

8 Eight Interesting Facts about Dr. Mitchell

1. When Dr. Mitchell started taking classes at JJC, she became the first person in her family to go to college.
2. Thanks to her education at JJC, she knows how to build a computer from scratch – and even did so once as a project to teach her son.
3. She coached her daughter's softball team for eight years, while working and in school.
4. Even though most of her family are Chicago Bears fans, she is a proud Green Bay Packers fan.
5. She enjoys playing golf and working in her yard.
6. She has been a resident of New Lenox for 36 years.
7. She is a Carl Sandburg High School alumna.
8. Before JJC, she worked as an administrative assistant for the New Lenox School District and she also worked as a Master Production Scheduler for the Andrew Corporation in Orland Park.

A SUMMARY OF DR. MITCHELL'S CAREER AT JJC

1996 to 2001
Administrative Assistant for the CIOS Department

2001 to 2002
Program Management Specialist in Adult and Family Services

2002 to 2004
Purchasing Coordinator

2004 to 2005
Interim Director of Administrative Services

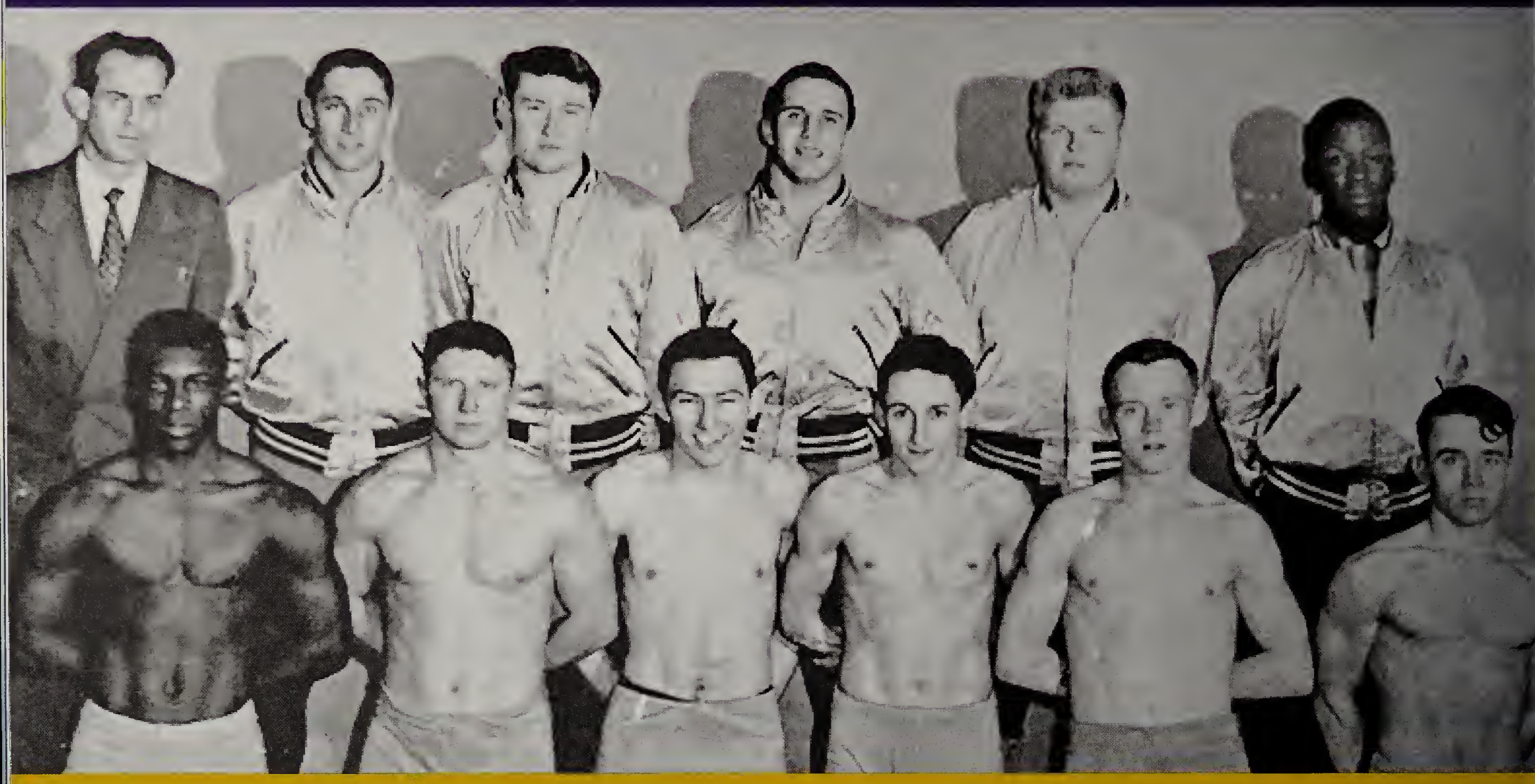
2005 to 2011
Director of Business and Auxiliary Services

2011 to 2012
Interim Vice President of Administrative Services

2012 to 2016
Vice President of Administrative Services

2016 to present
Interim President of Joliet Junior College
President as of Sept. 2016

Wrestling Program May Return to JJC in 2017



According to the JJC yearbook, "The Shield," this is not the only time JJC wrestling has taken a hiatus. "The first wrestling squad JJC has had in a long time was trained by Coach Hal Wimberly," the 1956 yearbook states on page 72. Co-captains of the 1956 squad were Richard Lasser and Tony Bertucci.

by Sam Ritz

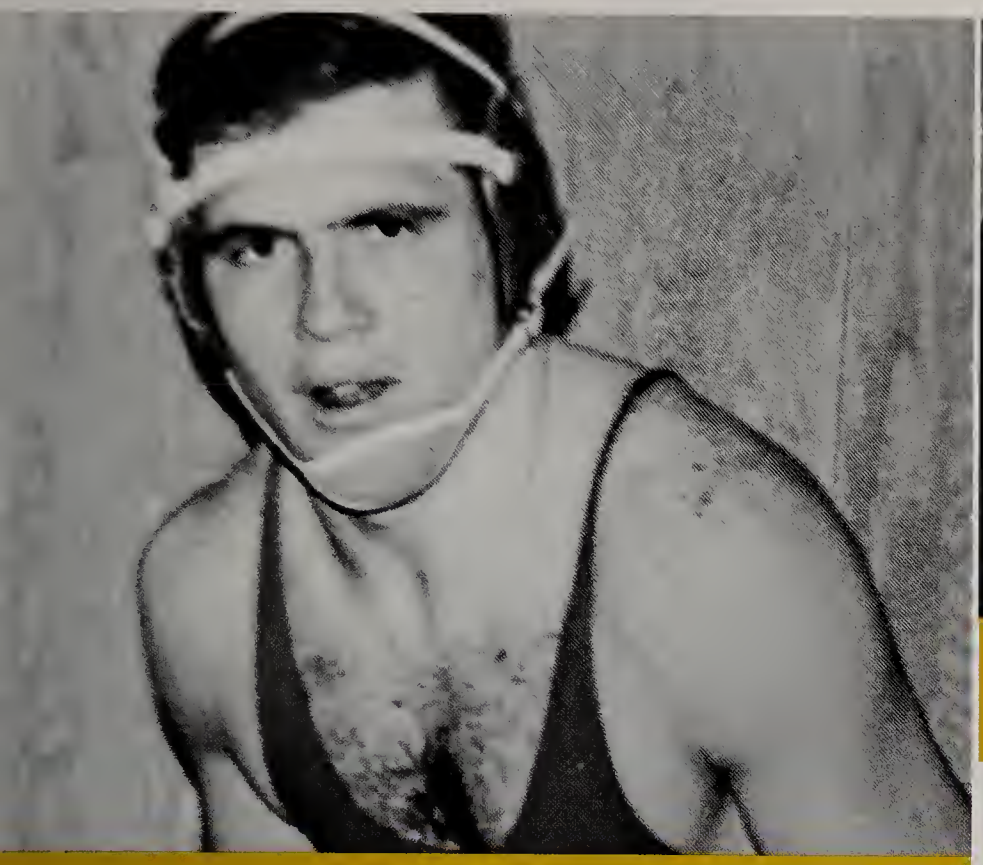
After more than 25 years without a wrestling program, Joliet Junior College could bring the sport back if enough financial support is garnered from a community-based wrestling committee, chaired by JJC Athletic Director Wayne L. King Jr.

The JJC Board of Trustees formally supported the opportunity last May, as long as the committee can secure $35,000 by April 2017. If that timeline is met, wrestling would launch at JJC as an NJCAA sport in the fall of 2017.

One of the reasons the community is passionate about bringing wrestling back to JJC is because of its rich, winning history. The program produced many successful athletes throughout the years, including Olympian Harry Geris, who competed in the games representing Canada in 1968, 1972 and 1976.

Before coming to JJC, Geris lived in Canada with his Dutch immigrant family, who discouraged him from attending college because they wanted him to start working. But Geris had other plans – as a high school senior passionate about wrestling and a desire to attend college, he hitchhiked to a college wrestling tournament in the United States, where he ran into JJC coach Henry Pillard. After that tournament, Geris chose to attend JJC and join the wrestling team. This decision would change his life: being a part of JJC's wrestling team gave him the confidence to attend the Canadian Olympic try-outs.

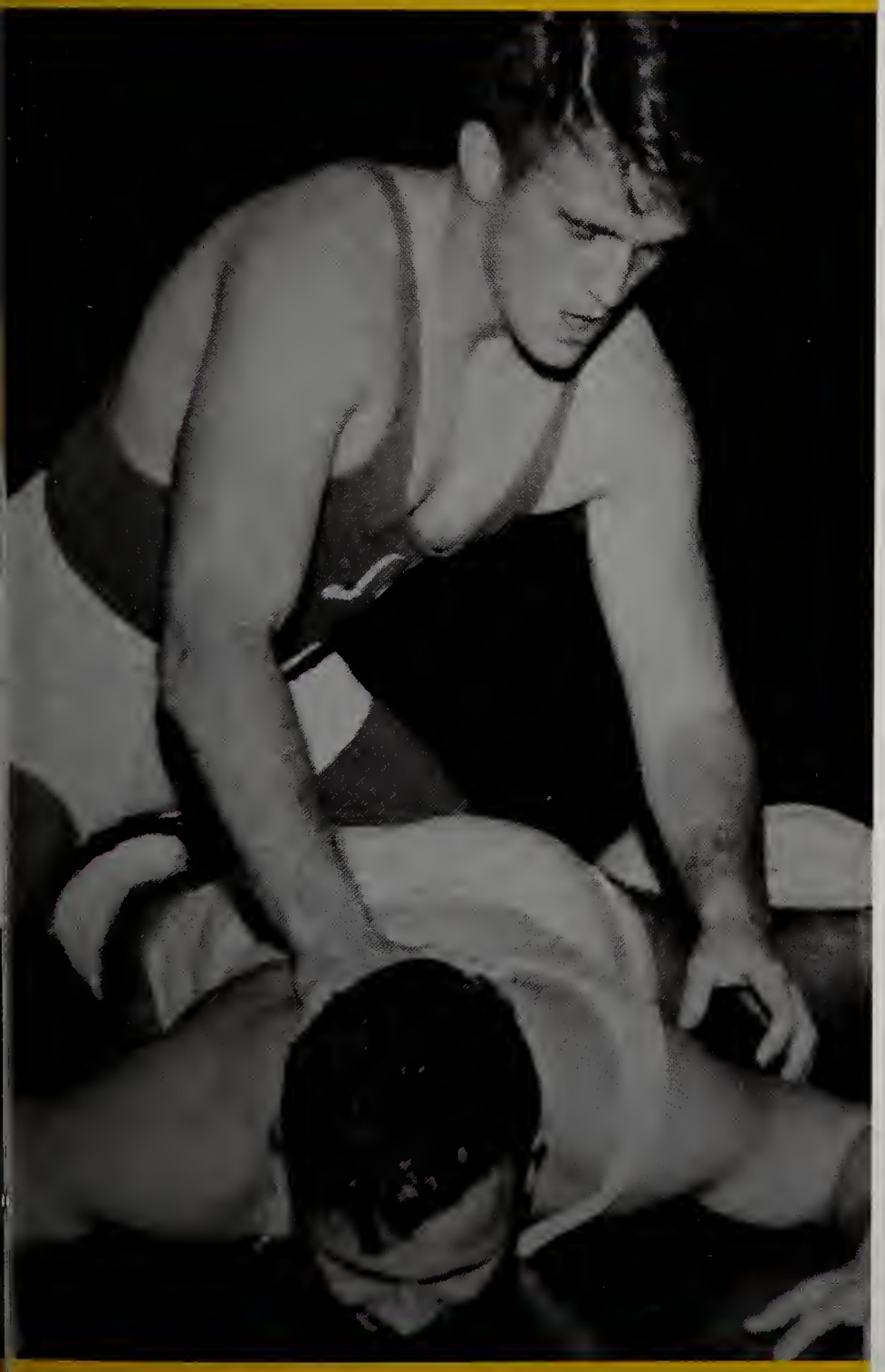
In addition to Geris' accomplishments, JJC has seen other successes: the team won a national championship in 1964, and placed many times in the top five schools in the nation. Wrestlers competed against other players from across the country, which included those from big ten schools, because there were no regional or district lines.



The team leader of JJC's 1967-1968 season was Harry Geris, who eventually joined the Canadian Olympic team and competed in the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City. After his time in the Olympics, Geris returned to the JJC wrestling squad and graduated in 1969. He eventually went on to study business and joined the wrestling team at Oklahoma State University.



During the 1975 season, the Joliet Junior College wrestling team placed first in Illinois and third in the nation.



JJC wrestler Tom Pierson pins down his opponent during a wrestling match in 1969.

"Ultimately, I think JJC's wrestling program got kids to develop into their full potential," said Pillard, who coached the team for most of its history. He added that because wrestling is an individual sport that requires conditioning, endurance, balance, and skill, it provides different learning opportunities than other JJC sports.

According to Pillard, many of the students who went through the wrestling program at JJC eventually became successful wrestling coaches themselves, and in turn have helped train high-achieving wrestling students at the local high school level, with many still coaching today.

Longtime Joliet Central wrestling coach Pat O'Connell said because there is so much local wrestling talent in the area, if JJC were to reinstate the program, they would not only likely have another all-star team, but they would also be able to attract more students, offering them a chance to wrestle in addition to the affordability of tuition – something a four-year school can't offer.

"Every coach I've talked to has said that we think we can get it back, that it's way overdue. Everybody's excited about it," O'Connell said. "Wrestling in our area is very popular and for years, has been very successful from Joliet and Lockport to Minooka, Coal City and Wilmington. We have a lot of schools that are very strong."

Those who would like to make a donation to go toward JJC's new wrestling program can do so by visiting **www.jjc.edu/foundation** by calling Executive Director of Resource Development Kristi Mulvey at 815-280-2353; or by mailing a check made out to the Joliet Junior College Foundation at 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431.

Annual Alumni Brunch

CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

by Kelly Larson

The Annual Alumni Brunch was full of excitement, laughter and memories as alumni returned to campus for a milestone celebration--the 35th anniversary of the brunch--on June 5.

To honor this milestone, Senator Pat McGuire presented a special State of Illinois Senate recognition award at one of the biggest alumni brunches ever thrown. More than 130 alumni and friends gathered in the Health Professions Auditorium on the Main Campus for the festivities.

The event also gave special recognition to the classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, and 2006. It also provided a special opportunity for alumni, friends and supporters from all over the country to come together, celebrate, and relive their love for JJC. Guests were treated to a gourmet buffet, dining entertainment, and traveled back in time through a history table filled with yearbooks and memorabilia.

Among the many guests included key individuals that helped establish and transform the JJC Alumni Association over the last 45 years. These guests included Sheila Sasso, the first JJC Executive Director of Alumni Relations, Dr. Tom Streitz, the first JJC Alumni Board President, and all past alumni board presidents, which included Ron Whitaker, Sylvester Cottrell, Doug Ostrem, and Marie Wilson.

The event also gave special recognition to the 2016 Distinguished Alumni awardee and honored two fascinating people who have served JJC through the years in an exceptional way.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award was presented to First Sergeant Robert Garza '83. This award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon alumni and is reserved for those who have demonstrated outstanding success in their chosen field and who have provided humanitarian service to society. In addition to serving his country, Garza is a volunteer with Joliet Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Daybreak Homeless Shelter and more. He also coaches basketball and soccer through the YMCA and Plainfield Park District.

The 2016 Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award was granted to two recipients, Dr. Arthur Wagner and Ted Thompson. The award recognizes former faculty members, administrators or friends who have served JJC in an exceptional way. You can find more information on Mr. Thompson and Dr. Wagner in the "Then and Now" section.



First Sergeant Robert Garza '83, 2016 Distinguished Alumni Achievement awardee, and Catherine Dittrich.



Ted Thompson accepts the 2016 Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame award for his years of service to JJC with his family. Left to right: Jennifer Thompson '92, Ted Thompson, Jeffrey Thompson '96, and Evon Thompson.



Dr. Arthur Wagner accepts the 2016 Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame award for his years of service to JJC with his family. Left to right: Arthur Wagner, Dr. Arthur Wagner, Mary Wagner, Carl Wagner, and Ardis Stewart.



Alumni and friends celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Alumni Brunch held on the Main Campus.

Couple that Served Together, Studies Together at JJC



Veterans and married couple Michael and Cristina Hill are studying to become nurses at JJC. Pictured standing outside JJC's Health Professions Center, they are only two out of more than 450 other veterans taking classes at JJC this fall.

by Sam Ritz

Military veterans Cristina and Michael Hill are not newly-weds, but you wouldn't be able to tell the difference – they have an innocent playfulness between them that makes it seem as though they have never left the honeymoon phase. After meeting in the Air Force sixteen years ago, they now have four kids and ten years of marriage behind them.

But what has perhaps kept them the most in sync as of late has been the fact that they are working toward one common goal: both are in JJC's nursing program, and since the beginning, have taken every single class together.

Cristina and Michael are only two out of more than 450 other veterans currently attending the college this fall, a number that has remained strong and steady for the past few years.

The Hills have an extremely positive outlook on their education, and are taking advantage of being in all their classes together because that just means they will always have a study partner.

"We keep each other focused and motivated," Cristina said. "It's actually very beneficial because we're learning the same things so I can explain something to him if he doesn't get it, or vice versa. Sometimes one of us will tease the other, saying, 'I'm going to get a better grade than you!' Which really just helps us to study harder. We're very competitive!"

The Hills, of Plainfield, chose to pursue their education at JJC because they'd heard so many great things about the nursing program – and after finding out about all the financial benefits they'd receive from the GI Bill, they knew they had to jump on the opportunity.

Being a full-time student has its ups and downs, just like being in the military, according to Michael. Taking classes can be just as challenging as his job with the Air Force.

"Going back to school changes everything, including your way of thinking," Michael said. "In the military, if you make a mistake, you can get up the next day and try to fix it. In school, your final grade is your final grade."

Though it hasn't been an easy journey, and it's been years since either of them have stepped inside a classroom since they came to JJC, the Hills believe JJC's dedicated faculty and staff are what has really helped them do so well.

"This was a big change for us, and I don't know if other schools are like this, but the faculty and staff here really pushed us and helped us completely change gears," said Michael. Cristina added that it's easy to get one-on-one time with the instructors because of the low teacher-to-student ratio.

At the end of the school day, the Hills head home to be with their four children, aged 15, 12, 7 and 4.

"We try to set a good example by keeping our grades up," Cristina said.

"Before, our kids thought we were cool because we worked as cops in the military," Michael added. "Now, we're doing homework, just like them."

For more information about the Nursing Department at JJC, visit **www.jjc.edu/nursing-allied-health**.

For more information about the benefits veterans can receive by attending JJC, visit **www.jjc.edu/financial-aid/Pages/veterans.aspx**.



Beehives, Bebop and Bell Bottoms:

Take a Peek at the Past with Digital Copies of the *Blazer*

by Amy Chellino

Digitizing the Blazer, Joliet Junior College's student-led newspaper, is the latest project of the Joliet Junior College Archives. The JJC Archives is located at the JJC Library and houses college yearbooks, photographs, and other memorabilia, including issues of The Blazer, which has held an important place in college history for nearly 90 years.

Now, the public has the opportunity to access over 700 issues of the Blazer online dating as far back as 1931 through the JJC Library Archives website: **www.jjc.edu/info/archives**. The newspaper provides a first-hand account of U.S. history and the history of Joliet Junior College as it was unfolding by showcasing the changing eras from the Depression, World War II, Vietnam War, presidential elections, popular movies and music, student commentaries, and a variety of advertisements.

The articles illuminate how the college has continued to evolve throughout the decades to consistently offer students opportunities for academic growth and achievement as well as provide an interesting look at how everything from fashion to dating has changed over the years.

The digitizing process began by creating an inventory of the Blazers that are stored in the College Archives at the JJC Library. Once the newspapers were inventoried, they were organized and mailed to Internet Archive, a nonprofit digital library that has digitized the JJC yearbooks; issues of the college's literary magazine "The Wordeater"; and the book "Joliet Junior College 1901-2001: A Pictorial History of America's Oldest Public Community College." The newspapers were scanned by Internet Archive and became part of the College Archives Digital Collection and are openly available to be viewed and read.

Perhaps most importantly, the Blazer digitization project was made possible by the James P. Sczepaniak Endowment Fund. This funding also allowed the college to work with an archives specialist on a long-term plan to organize the archives collection and ensure proper preservation of this priceless memorabilia. Additionally, with the endowment funding, the JJC Library purchased exhibit materials to showcase photographs, yearbooks and various bulletins at the Alumni Brunch this past spring. The conclusive goal of the JJC Archives is to share photographs, documents and artifacts commemorating the college's rich history with the public.

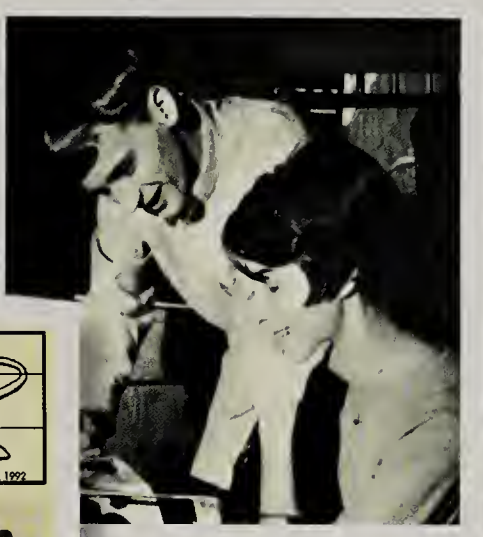
The JJC Library is honored to accept any donations of JJC memorabilia to add to our growing archives collection. To make a donation, please contact Amy Chellino, JJC librarian: achellin@jjc.edu/815-280-6708.



BLAZER



Members of the Blazer staff are,left to right, Sherry Jo... Jose Garcia, Bonnie Flemmg, Dan Gr...



The BLAZER

Published by the Students of the Joliet Junior College at Joliet, Ill. FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1933

VOL. FOUR—NUMBER ELEVEN

J.J.C. WINS STATE TITLE

MORTON DEFEATED IN FINAL GAME

Thirty-five Fouls Called in Rough Contest

MORE SUBSCRIPTIONS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS

Work Delayed Because of Financial Troubles.



BLAZER

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE, 1216 HOUBOLT AVENUE, JOLIET, IL 60436-9352 VOLUME 63, NUMBER 6 MAY 12, 1992

Newsbriefs

JJC Judo club excels

Four members of the JJC Judo Club, directed by Gregorio Tilos, ERAST instructor, qualified for the Olympic Trials during the National Judo Championships.

Qualifiers include Sicle Howell, first place, orange belt, Oldcorn's Division Heavyweight; Steve Johnson, third place, Men s Heavyweight; Jim Lentina, green belt, Men's Medium Weight; and Alex Luna, third place, ... belt, Young Men's Division





BLAZER

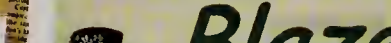
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 52nd YEAR NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 14, 1980

Off the Mall

Students here tend to favor Reagan







Blazer

dnesday, March 1, 2000 Joliet Junior College Student Publication Volume 72 Issue 7

Trustees to vote on tuition increase

by Lorraine Guerrero

Joliet Junior College tuition will increase by $2 per credit for the 2000-2001 school year. If approved by the Board of Trustees March 8, and will continue to rise each year by a couple of dollars, according to the projections made in the Joliet Junior College Financial Plan prepared by Tom Ryan, vice president of Business Services.

For example, a student taking 15 credit hours will be looking forward to a $30 increase on his tuition per semester or $60 increase for both semesters. This does not include increases in fees because the fees would only affect students taking the specific subject in which the fees are required.

The Financial Plan is made up every five years to project the rising costs of buildings and grounds upkeep, the construction of new buildings such as the Vec-Tech Building and the costs of maintain-

"The tuition increase is unfortunate because we are putting

As state funding of education has increased every year, the actual of these increases has actu... from previous years.

The actual amount of tuition ... has hampered the college's ... ability to collect taxes in the school... fund," said Ryan.

The actual amount of tuition ...

nside

Who would you vote for?

Page 2

...en Yankees'





College Play Next Friday Night

The Blazer

Published by the Students of the Joliet Junior College

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 4 JOLIET, ILLINOIS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1942

Students Give Annual Drama

JJC Members Given Tickets At Assembly

Yearbook Staff Is Hampered by War

Picture taking of the various clubs or activities will be hampered by the WDP order to freeze the production of flash bulbs and the new 25% tax on all photographic materials.

After the dealers' supply of flash bulbs is exhausted, bulbs will be rationed making it almost impossible for the camera club to obtain them. Yearbook photos Blazer McCoskey

A way has been found to have some features in the '43 Yearbook. The printers will use linoleum blocks instead of the ordinary metal cuts. The art department will cut the blocks. Art students are now making sketches to show the engraver of the book.



Student members of the JC social committee are, ... Waldman, Marion Palmer and Mary Jayne Pohl. T... social affairs for the coming year.

Need College Women DUCTION co...

Joliet Junior Col...

BLAZER

Check out the Blazer on the web!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

Master plan progress



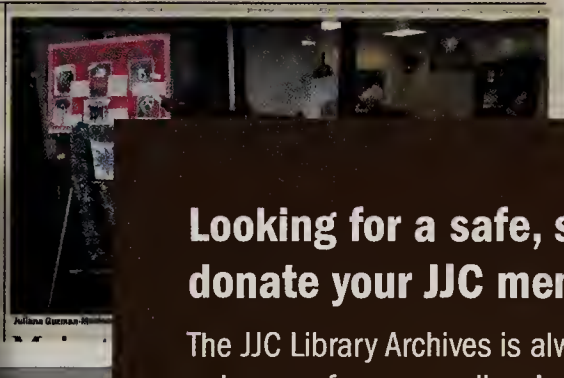
THE BLAZER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016 VOLUME 89 ISSUE 1

King's

legacy

alive &



Juliana Guzman-H...

the blazer

"The Oldest Public Junior College in America"

Volume IX, No. 3 Joliet Junior College, Joliet, Illinois December 15, 1961

'Sophomore Revue' to be Presented Today



Upper Class Talent Show Slated For Periods 5-6 in Auditorium

The sophomores have struck back!

In retaliation for the excellent "Meet the Freshmen" assembly, the sophs have decided to give a "Sophomore Revue." Scott Rodeghiero, sophomore class president, said "The freshmen show was good, for freshmen, but the sophomore class, which is renowned for its handsome men, beautiful women, and talented performers, feels that the show left something to be desired as far as real, true talent is concerned."

This, the sophomores will stage their "Sophomore Revue" today, periods 5-6 in the auditorium. It will characterize "the epitome of theatrical splendor."

Scott, as well as the other ... sophomore class can participate in the program.

There will be a singing group with Julie Walker, Alma Lauffer, Marge Starts, Lee Vargas, Nancy Klett, Larry Arable, Ken Lawson, Bill Werger, Dale Imig, and Lew Davies.

Ralph Alderman, Gordon Kay, and Jon O'Donnell will do a pantomime of a love scene.

By special permission of his manager, and through a gigantic effort on the part of the sophomore class officers, the world famous Masked Marvel has been persuaded to appear and give one of his stupendous demonstrations.

Terry Guidetti's Dixieland band, with Dick Wright, Jerry Hood, Paul Faher, Mike Konteckl, Al Meyers, Julie Walker, Ken Lawson, and Larry Grable

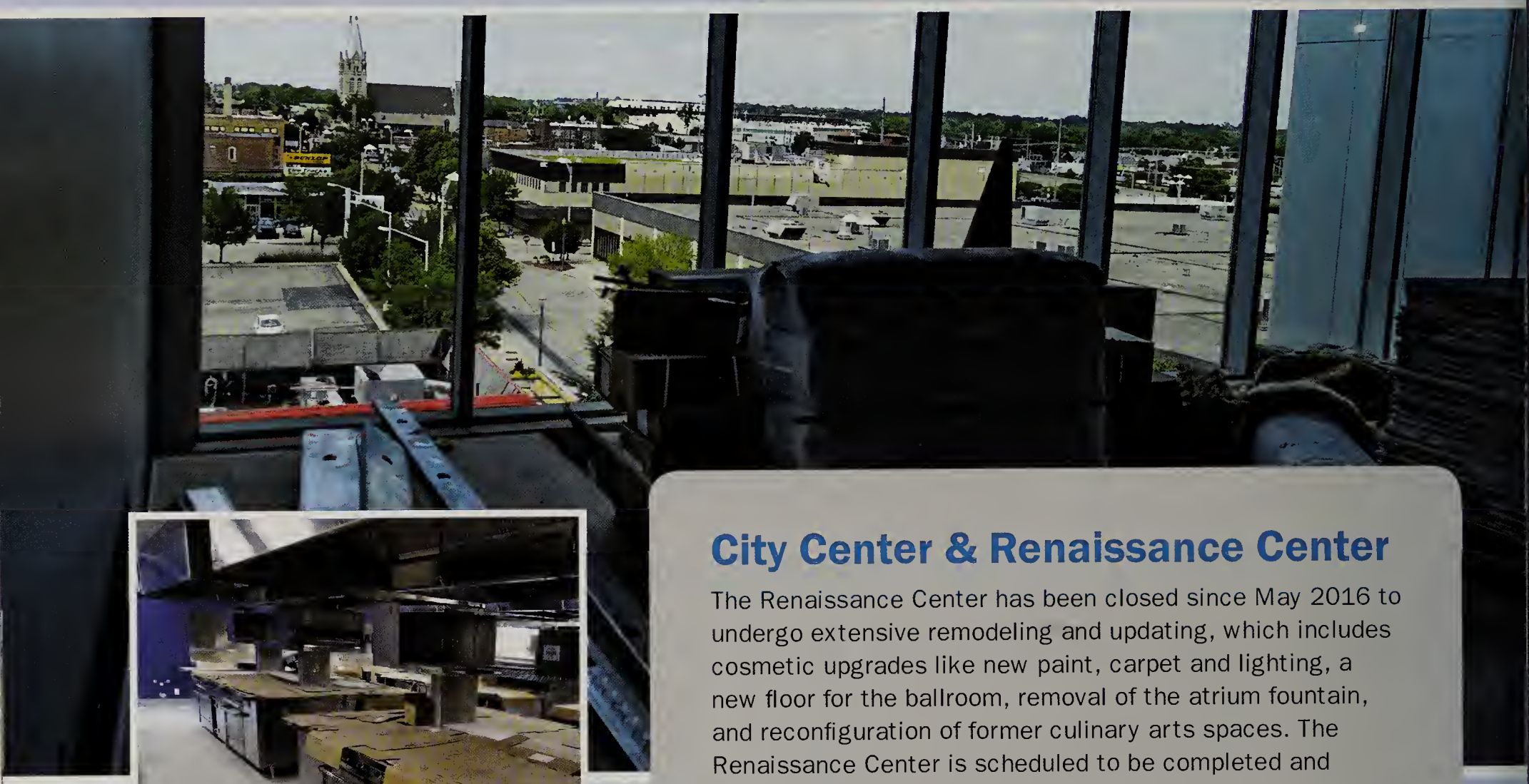
Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: (815) 280-2344

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Progress of JJC Master Plan Projects



JJC City Center Campus



Renaissance Center

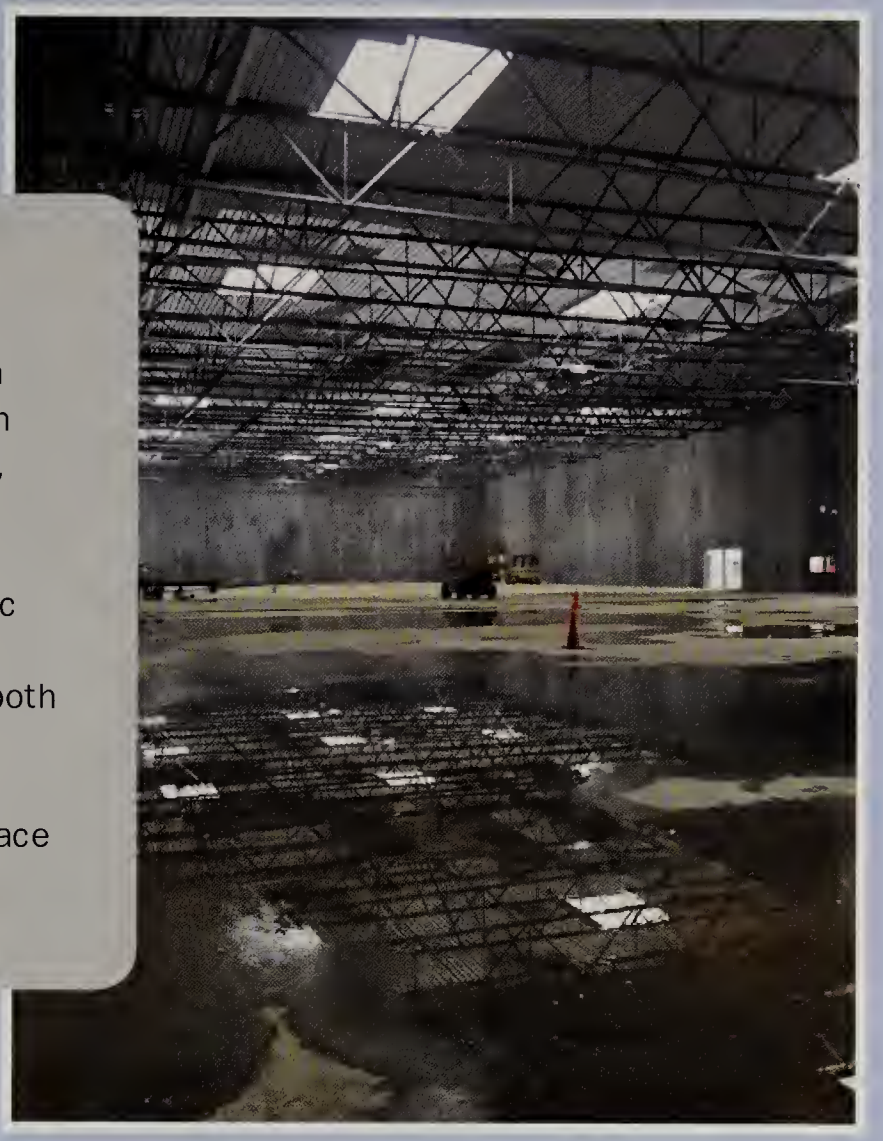
City Center & Renaissance Center

The Renaissance Center has been closed since May 2016 to undergo extensive remodeling and updating, which includes cosmetic upgrades like new paint, carpet and lighting, a new floor for the ballroom, removal of the atrium fountain, and reconfiguration of former culinary arts spaces. The Renaissance Center is scheduled to be completed and reopened during the Spring 2017 semester.

The interior work on the six-story City Center Campus is on schedule and in budget, with interior work being progressively completed from the sixth floor down. The new structure will house workforce development, GED/ESL training, adult education and culinary arts, and it is scheduled to be completed and open for the January 2017 semester.

Following is what will be housed on each floor:

1. Restaurant, kiosk, meat fabrication
2. Competition lab, student servery and dining, demonstration lab, ballroom kitchen, faculty offices
3. Special needs kitchen, Garde Manger kitchen, workforce development, adult and family services
4. Chocolate and sugar lab, baking and pastry labs, classrooms and computer labs
5. Production labs, classrooms and computer labs
6. Library, testing center, classrooms



Event Center

Construction on the 85,223 sq. ft. athletic facility on Main Campus is slightly ahead of schedule and within budget, and will be ready for occupancy in July 2017, with an official opening for the Fall 2017 semester. It will provide the JJC Athletic program with its first modern facilities; the program has been using athletic spaces built in the 1970s. The two-story building includes a fieldhouse with seating to accommodate both athletic events and graduation ceremonies; room for two basketball courts and baseball practice; athletic staff office space, locker rooms; and conditioning space for student athletes.



Romeoville Campus

The expansion of the Romeoville Campus is the first major construction on the campus since it opened in 1993. Since that time, enrollment has grown 45 percent. Construction of the 50,028 sq. ft., two-story expansion is progressing on schedule and in budget, and it is slated to open for Fall 2017 semester classes. The expansion, which will create a new front door for the campus, will include:

First Floor

- Faculty offices
- Cafeteria/kiosk/dining area
- Campus police office
- Student services
- Counseling
- Tutoring
- Testing lab

Second Floor

- Classrooms
- Computer labs
- Science labs

News Briefs

ICCTA Honors JJC Trustees

One current Joliet Junior College trustee and one former trustee were honored this past summer by the Illinois Community College Trustee Association.

Longtime trustee Robert Wunderlich, chair of the JJC Board of Trustees, received a service award recognizing his 40 years of service as a trustee. Wunderlich first joined the JJC board in 1977, and has served consecutive terms ever since.

"I'm proud of a number of successes that have happened at JJC during my tenure as a trustee," Wunderlich said. "Student enrollment has steadily risen and we have added more facilities around the district to support a broader range of residents. I'm extremely proud of the investments we've made in our facilities. We've had enormous growth in that area, and have steadily developed our infrastructure to promote state-of-the-art classrooms and other campus spaces for students and our communities to use."



Longtime trustee Robert Wunderlich received a service award recognizing his 40 years of service as a trustee.

Former trustee Jeff May, who stepped down from the board in 2015, received the certificate of merit award for his dedicated service to the JJC board for nearly 16 years.



Former trustee Jeff May received the certificate of merit award for his dedicated service to the JJC board for nearly 16 years.

"I was honored to have been recognized by trustees from around the state," said May. "It was great to catching up with this dedicated group who selflessly give their time and talent to help ensure that everyone has equal access to higher education. I will look back at my time serving the community college system as one of the highlights of my life."

"It's wonderful to see our board members be recognized for their dedication to the college," said JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell. "Our trustees volunteer their time and expertise to lead the college into the future. Trustee Wunderlich and former Trustee May have been key leaders in shaping our vision and we are grateful for their service."

Morris Education Center Moves to New Location

JJC's Morris Education Center moved from its previous location at 1715 North Division St. to the recently vacated Shabbona Middle School building at 725 School St. earlier this fall to provide more space and resources for Grundy County students and the community.

For now, JJC is only occupying approximately 5,000 square feet of the facility, which includes three classrooms, two computer labs, testing and tutoring space, a resource area for job seekers, and space for Grundy Workforce Services, a grant-funded organization that has assisted more than 17,300 eligible community members in the past seven years.

The Morris Education Center serves approximately 300 students each year, but that number is expected to significantly increase in the next three years thanks to the new building's ability to provide more space and resources to students. In the future, the new education center will also offer select certificate programs that students can complete entirely at the Morris location.

"Relocating our Morris Education Center to Shabbona Middle School's old building is a win in every aspect. We will also be more visible in the community," added Director of Extended Campuses Marsha McCormick. "The close proximity to Grundy Area Vocational Center and Morris High School is a significant benefit for our dual credit students, and we will have larger, improved facilities at less of a cost than our previous facility."

For more information about the Morris Education Center and what it can offer students, visit **www.jjc.edu/morris-education-center** or call (815) 942-1552.



The Morris Education Center's new building (previously Shabbona Middle School) is pictured above.





Two deserving individuals received the 2015 J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award at the March Board of Trustees meeting. At top, Michelle Meyer, JJC professor and Smith's nominator; Deborah Smith, ESA recipient; and JJC Board Vice Chairman Andy Mihelich. Below: State Representative Margo McDermed and Cheney's nominator; Gary Cheney, ESA recipient; and Trustee Patty Deiters.

Two Residents Honored with JJC's ESA Award

The Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees honored two residents with the 2015 J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award this past spring: Gary Cheney of New Lenox and Deborah Smith of Lockport.

The ESA is the highest honor presented to an individual by the college. Developed by the Board of Trustees to honor residents who have given outstanding service to Community College District 525, the award was named for former JJC President J.D. Ross.

Cheney, who attended JJC in the 1980s and said he was proud that his children and grandchildren also studied at the college, was nominated by 37th District Representative Margo McDermed for his work with ShareFest, an event he created in 2007. ShareFest originally started out as a one-day community service festival, but it has since turned into a year-round event for hundreds of volunteers to commit their time, talents and treasures to helping those in need.

Smith, who attended JJC as an adult student a few years ago, was nominated by JJC Business Professor Michelle Meyer for her volunteer work with a multitude of community organizations, which include Openlands and the Morton Arboretum; the Hope & Friendship Foundation; Operation Care Package; Lemont Medical Reserves Corps; and the Chicago Marathon, where she enjoys volunteering to help runners.

For more information about the ESA Award, or learn about past winners, visit **www.jjc.edu/board-of-trustees/service-award/Pages/default.aspx**

News Briefs



JJC Passes Balanced FY17 Budget

In an era of uncertain state funding and numerous budget challenges for many Illinois colleges, JJC presented a balanced FY17 budget to the Board of Trustees this past summer, which they approved on June 14.

The total operating budget for FY17 is $ 88.94 million, representing a 2.07% increase over the FY16 budget. This is the 44th consecutive year that the college's operating budget has been balanced.

"We continue to face funding challenges with the lack of a state budget, but at the same time we remain focused on keeping education affordable," said President Dr. Judy Mitchell. "I'm proud of the collaboration and hard work across the institution that went into planning this year's budget."

Highlights of the new budget include:

- $10 increase in tuition
- 1% enrollment growth
- New personnel costs to support student success initiatives and facility maintenance for the opening of our new City Center Campus
- Required grant fund match for U.S. Department of Education Title III Grant to support student engagement, persistence and completion programs.

To create a balanced budget, the college took cost-saving measures like restricting out-of-state travel, closing the Small Business Development Center, and putting on hold the filling of several positions.

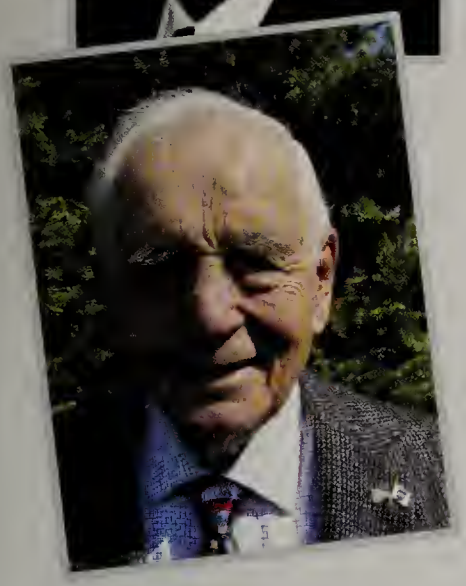
"Over the past four years, the college has reduced its operating costs by over $2 million," Mitchell said. "We've actively pursued creative revenue sources, receiving more than $5.4 million in grants to offset operational costs in FY15. We've done all of this while keeping tuition low for our students."

Additionally, this past fall, the college's financial team was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2016 budget, the 11th year in a row the college has received this honor.

People

Then and Now





Dr. Arthur A. Wagner, Professor Emeritus, Biology

THEN Dr. Arthur A. Wagner, 90, is a retired biology professor and former chair of both the Biology and Physical Education Departments. He began working at JJC when classes still took place at Joliet Township High School in 1958, and retired in 1991. During his time at JJC, Dr. Wagner said the biology field drastically changed with the discovery of DNA and the introduction of the computer as a research tool. One of Dr. Wagner's most notable accomplishments at JJC is being part of creating an "audio tutorial" class for those who preferred self-paced learning. He was also instrumental in the building of the Fitness Center.

NOW Since retirement, Dr. Wagner and his wife of nearly 30 years, Mary, spend much of their time with family and traveling. He and Mary have visited Alaska, Ireland, and hiked many U.S. National Parks. The couple have also visited Germany five times. Dr. Wagner also enjoys reading, taking photographs and volunteering at his church. Art has one son and two grandsons and Mary has three children and three grandchildren. The couple recently enjoyed a family trip to Minnesota to celebrate Art's 90th birthday. The family also honored him at the 35th Annual Alumni Brunch as Dr. Wagner was awarded the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award which recognizes an individual who has served JJC in an exceptional way.

Ted Thompson, Professor Emeritus, English and World Languages

THEN Ted Thompson has been an educator at JJC for nearly 50 years. Well-known for his influence in JJC's film courses, Mr. Thompson helped to form several classes, including Introduction to Film Study. He was also the sponsor of JJC's literary magazine, "The Contemporary," which preceded the college's current magazine, "The Wordeater." In addition to helping students succeed in the classroom, Thompson gave back to students and faculty alike through his involvement in clubs and organizations. He was also an active member of the American Federation of Teachers, and helped negotiate four contracts during his time as a professor.





NOW Even though Thompson retired from JJC in 2003, he still teaches evening classes, serves on the JJC SUAA board, and writes poems for "The JJC Poets" and the publication, "Sculptures." Thompson also enjoys gardening and attending theatre and film productions. Since retirement, he's traveled to many places including England, Washington D.C., Boston, Arizona and Michigan. Thompson has two children, Jennifer and Jeffrey, both JJC graduates and educators. Jennifer and Jeffrey honored their dad at the 35th Annual Alumni Brunch as Thompson was awarded the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award for his lifelong dedication to JJC.

Weitendorf Center Celebrates 10 YEARS

by Sam Ritz



The Weitendorf Educational Center as shown in this undated aerial shot.



1942 JJC alumnus John H. Weitendorf, Sr.

After opening its doors for the first time in June 2007, the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center will celebrate its 10-year anniversary this spring. Throughout the years, the center has had its fair share of memories: from the intrigued faces of agriculture students after learning to care for piglets, to the laughs of local children and community members during 4-H competitions. But more importantly, students and alumni have gained personal, specialized experiences at the Weitendorf Center that have led them to be successful in their careers today.

As a 30,500 square foot facility with more than 30 acres of farmland on its property, the Weitendorf Center provides hands-on learning opportunities to students studying agriculture, horticulture, veterinary medical technology, and students taking continuing education and career training classes. The building is also a meeting ground for countless community organizations, such as the Will County Beekeepers Association, local police departments, community dog obedience classes, and more.

"Over the past ten years, the Weitendorf Center has been a wonderful facility for our students and our community members to step outside the box a little bit, and take advantage of the large space," said Mary Cwikla, coordinator of Weitendorf Center. "It's definitely worth it for them to get the hands-on experience that the Weitendorf Center offers."

The center was named after John H. Weitendorf, Sr., a 1942 JJC alum who donated $2.2 million and the 32-acre site to build the facility. Weitendorf, Sr. was awarded the JJC Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for his generosity in 2003. In 2010, his son, John H. Weitendorf, Jr., traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive the national Community College Benefactors Award from the Council for Resource Development (CRD) on behalf of the Weitendorf family. Weitendorf, Sr., who worked in Joliet as a realtor for most of his life, passed away in September 2011.

"My father was very supportive of JJC and since we've had farmers in our family, he loved the local agricultural community," said Weitendorf, Jr. "I think because he went to school at JJC, and because of the strength of the JJC Foundation – he was a member for more than 20 years – he was honored to make the donation. He was also very impressed with JJC's ag program, and was acquainted with many students as well as professors Bill Johnson and Brad Angus. It was after meeting with them, that the vision of the building really started to take shape. He would be happy that the building continues to be used today to not only help enrich students' lives, but also the community."

In honor of the Weitendorf Center's 10-year anniversary, the community is invited to a celebratory event and pig roast on March 4, 2017.

For more information about the Weitendorf Center and its upcoming celebration, please visit **www.jjc.edu/weitendorf**.



1942 JJC alumnus John H. Weitendorf, Sr. took part in the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center's groundbreaking in 2006.

1942 JJC alumnus John H. Weitendorf, Sr. took part in the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center's groundbreaking in 2006.



John Weitendorf, Jr. speaks during the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center's groundbreaking ceremony in 2006.



1942 JJC alumnus John H. Weitendorf, Sr. took part in the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center's groundbreaking in 2006.



Executive Director of Resource Development Kristi Mulvey shows off the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center's donor wall during the building's open house in June 2007.

Agriculture Class of 1966 Holds 50th Reunion

The JJC Agriculture Class of 1966 held its 50th class reunion on August 27, 2016 at Merichka's Restaurant near Joliet. They are the first graduating class of the state's first agriculture program, which started at JJC in 1964.





Winter 2016 and Spring 2017 Events

JJC Alumni/Foundation Events

For more information, visit ***www.jjc.edu/info/alumni-events***

10th Anniversary of the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center
March 4, 2017

Donor Reception/Scholarship Recognition Event
March 2017

36th Annual Alumni Brunch
June 2017





Planetarium Shows

All planetarium shows are free. Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer. For more information, contact the JJC Herbert Trackman Planetarium at at (815) 280-6682 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium**

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

November 22	How to Buy a Telescope
December 6	Story of the Christmas Star
January 3	Seasonal Skies
January 17	Black Holes
January 31	X-Planets – Discovering Other Earths
February 14	Mars
February 28	Cosmic Journey
March 14	Seasonal Skies
March 28	Back to the Moon for Good
April 11	Galileo, The Power of the Telescop
April 25	Asteroids and Comets
May 9	Seasonal Skies
May 23	Humans and Robots in Space
June 6	Viewing the Solar Eclipse

Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

November 17	Humans and Robots in Space
December 1	Mars
December 15	Story of the Christmas Star
January 12	We Go to the Moon*
January 26	Larry, Cat in Space*
February 9	Asteroids and Comets
February 23	Mars
March 9	Seasonal Skies
March 23	Sunstruck
April 6	The Little Star That Could
April 20	Cosmic Journey
May 4	Mars
May 28	Seasonal Skies
June 1	We Go to the Moon*
June 15	Viewing the Solar Eclipse

**Shows marked with an asterisk are designed for the very young astronomer.*
***12/18/16 The Story of the Christmas Star at 2:30 p.m.*

Fine Arts Events

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.

All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

The Dining Room by A.R. Gurney
November 17-19 – 7:30 p.m.
November 19-20 – 2 p.m.

Joliet Junior College Area High School Exhibit
November 7 – November 23

Student Recital
November 30 – 11 a.m.

Jazz Band Concert
December 2 – 7:30 p.m.

Community Band Concert
December 4 – 3 p.m.

Chamber Singers – MadriGala
December 9 – 7:30 p.m.

Joliet Junior College Area High School Art Exhibition
November 28 – December 9

Community Chorale – Carols and Chocolate
December 11 – 3 p.m.

Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert
December 13 – 7:30 p.m.

Musica Viva – Chamber Music
January 22 – 3 p.m.

Student Recital
January 25 – 11 a.m.

Gallery Exhibit: Jessica Harvey
January 17 – February 10

Musica Viva – JJC Brass Ensemble At the historic St. Joseph Catholic Church
February 12 – 3 p.m.

Student Recital
February 22 – 11 a.m.

The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical
March 2-4 – 7:30 p.m.
March 4-5 – 2 p.m.

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra
March 19 – 4 p.m.

Musica Viva – Global Concert and Cuisine
March 26 – 3 p .m.

Student Recital
March 29 – 11 a.m.

Gallery Exhibit: Tim Hurley
March 6 – March 31

Musica Viva – Casey McGrath and Daniela Broderick
April 9 – 3 p.m.

Proof by David Auburn
April 20-22 and 26-29 – 7:30 p.m.
April 22-23 and 29 – 2 p.m.

Student Recital
April 26 – 11 a.m.

Choral Masterworks Concert
April 30 – 3 p.m.

Jazz Band Concert
May 5 – 7:30 p.m.

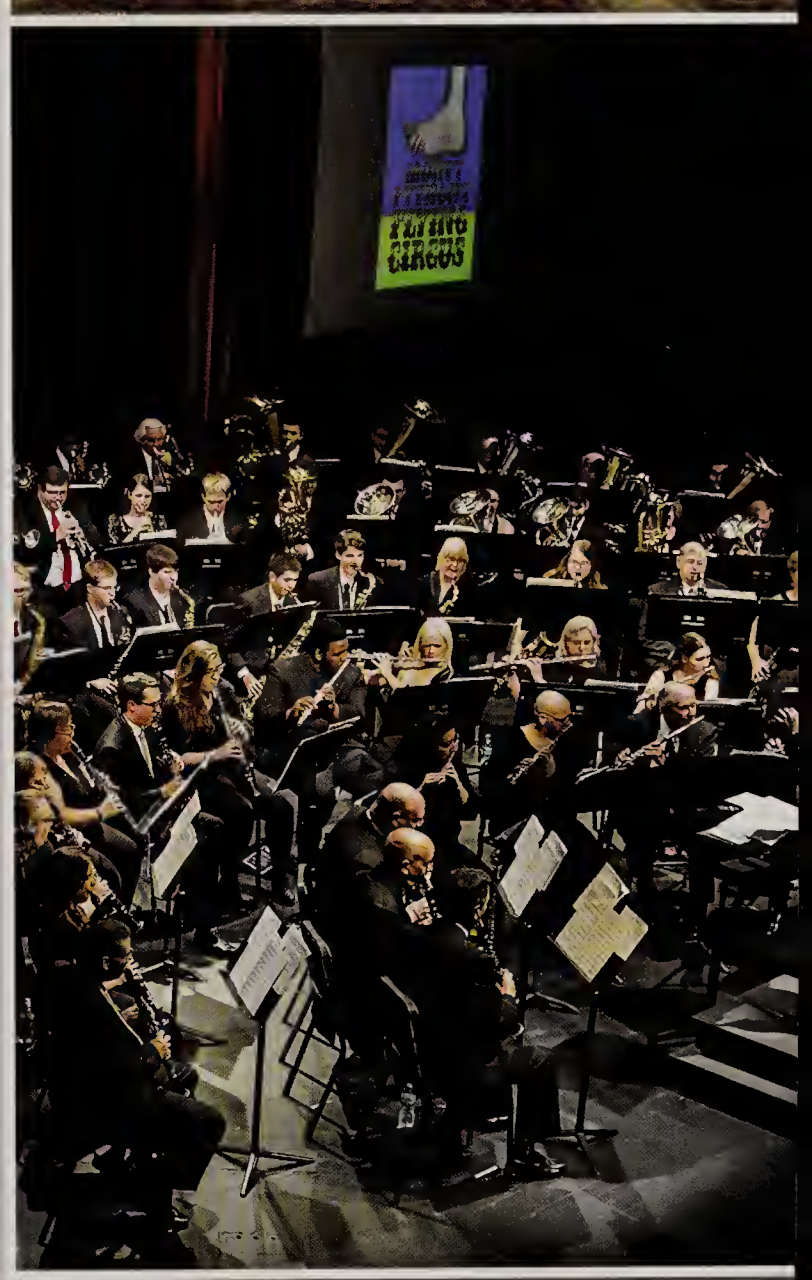
Community Band Concert
May 7 – 3 p.m.

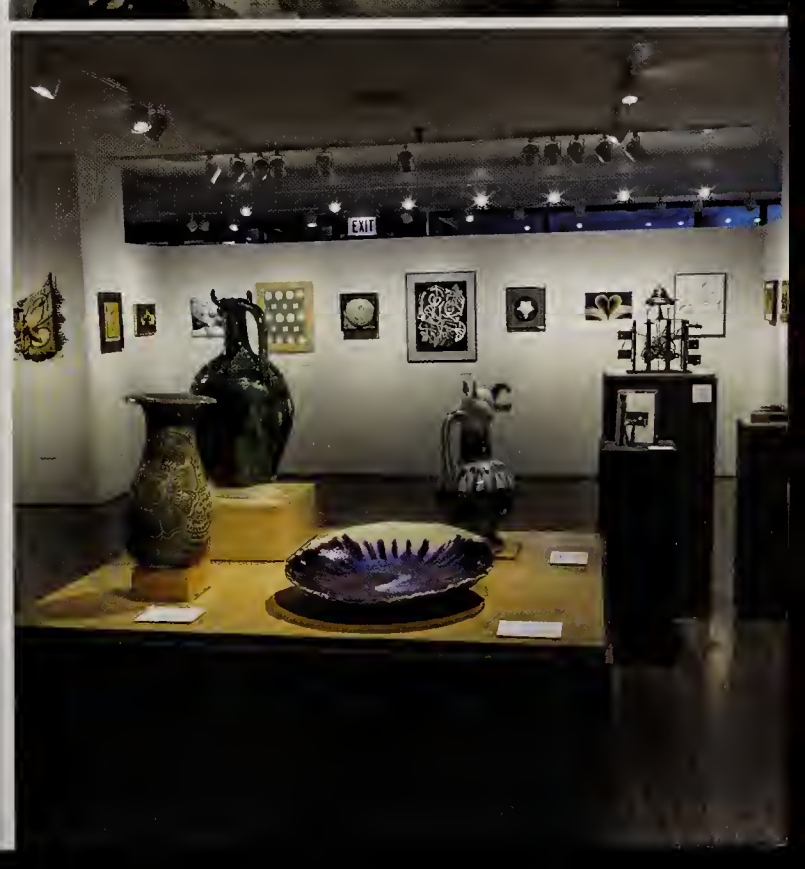
Guitar and Percussion Ensemble
May 9 – 7:30 p.m.

Honors Recital
May 11 – 7:30 p.m.

Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
April 24 – June 29







To learn about more events at JJC, visit
www.jjc.edu/info/more-events.

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1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**



Mary Ann Baskerville, a **1967** graduate, spent most of her life contributing to the social work profession on a local, national and international level. Mary Ann taught at Massey University in New Zealand for nearly 30 years where she continues to reside with her husband and one son.

Mary Ann credits her JJC professors for laying the foundation which allowed her to earn a BS, MSW and MBA and numerous accolades in social work. She was made a life member of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers and has a fieldwork practice awarded in her name.

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

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SUCCESSFUL PATHWAYS

from JJC to a Dream Career

Are you hosting a MEETING or BUSINESS EVENT?

Joliet Junior College offers state-of-the-art spaces perfect for hosting business events, meetings, parties, sporting events and more!



JJC OFFERS:

- Classrooms, lecture halls and computer labs *(24-72 people)*
- Meeting rooms *(25-100 people)*
- Theatre *(up to 320 people)*
- Conference center and auditorium with collapsible walls *(100-200 people)*
- Demo kitchens



NEW!
JJC Event Center
(available summer 2017)

- Indoor athletic field with artificial turf
- Wood floor gymnasium
- Meeting/presentation rooms *(25-100 people)*

Spaces are available on **Main Campus** *(Houbolt Road)*, **City Center Campus** *(downtown Joliet)*, **Romeoville Campus**, and **Weitendorf Education Center.**

Wireless internet access and audio/visual capabilities are included. Catering and media services are available for an additional fee.

Not-for-profit organizations receive 25 percent off!

Visit **jjc.edu/external-rentals**

Contact Event Coordinator,
Susan Stockwell
Phone: **815-280-2524**
Email: **sstockwe@jjc.edu**



CONNECTIONS



JJC Celebrates the Inauguration of Dr. Judy Mitchell

Celebrations held on Feb. 1 marked the beginning of Dr. Mitchell's tenure as JJC's ninth president.



Successful Pathways

Joliet Junior College alumnus Saleh Ruman gained valuable experience at Joliet Junior College before transferring to DePaul University in 2016. Now he's only a few classes away from his bachelor's degree in accounting.



Strategic Plan Lays Groundwork for Institutional Goals

Learn more about the strategic plan that will guide JJC through 2019.



JJC Awarded $1.2 Million Grant to Assist High School Students in Need

JJC's Project Achieve Office will now be able to assist 500 high school students with career counseling, applying to college and more.



2016 Annual Report

Review of financial data from FY 2016 for JJC and the JJC Foundation.

14 People - Then and Now

22 From the Archives

24 News Briefs

26 JJC Events



Dear JJC supporters,

I have been extremely fortunate to serve Joliet Junior College for 20 years, and am a proud JJC alumna. When I reflect on the sheer impact the college has made on my life, and the journey I've taken to get where I am today, I cannot help but think of what I can do—and we can do together—to make the same impact on JJC students today.

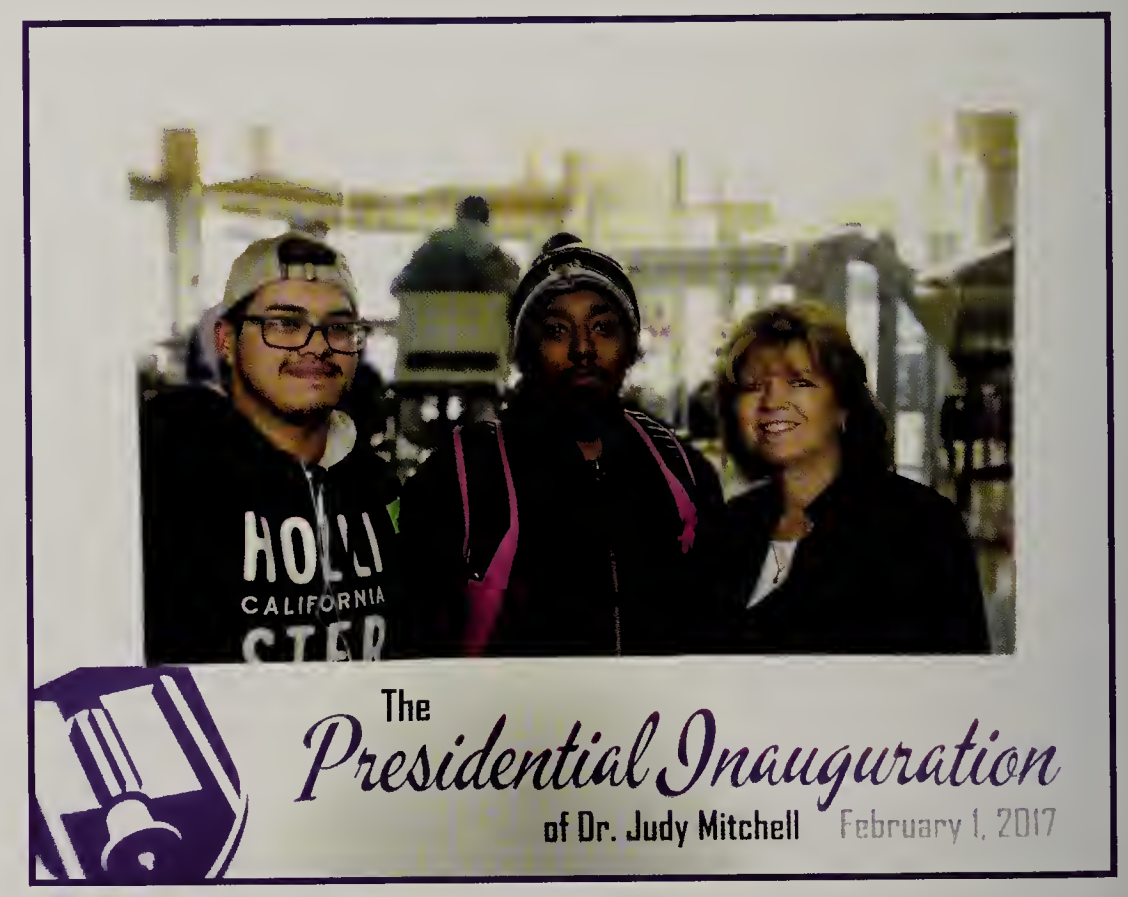
This institution, from the start, took good care of me as a returning adult student. At that point, I hadn't been inside a classroom for over 10 years, let alone a college classroom. Yet with the support I received from JJC, I was able to persist. I worked and raised my children while going back to school to find the right career path. I transferred to Governors State University where I went on to receive my bachelor's and master's degrees, followed by my doctorate from National Louis University. Our students have unique pathways to success, just like I did.

With each issue of *Connections*, we focus on a theme that embodies our mission and serves as the foundation for the stories we bring you. As we do with every spring issue, you'll find annual reports for both the college and for the JJC Foundation for fiscal year 2016. You will also see a strong emphasis on our partnerships with other colleges and universities. Our students have access to amazing transfer opportunities, as you'll read about in our cover story about JJC alum Saleh Ruman, who is now a business major at DePaul University. Saleh made JJC his first choice for quality academic curriculum and developing his career path through courses in our business department.

Making JJC the first choice for our residents not only serves as the college's vision statement, but it is truly my guiding principle. My personal commitment to this institution and to our students is to provide a strong foundation as we enter our 116th year. Ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability is critical during this time of economic uncertainty with the state of Illinois.

Despite this turmoil, I am proud to share that in fiscal year 2016, the college celebrated its 43rd consecutive balanced budget. While we know there will continue to be tough financial decisions ahead, we are keeping the importance of student success at the forefront of our decision-making. Student success is noted throughout our Strategic Plan, and embedded in our culture.

I hope you'll take a chance to read about this critical plan on page 12.



Ultimately, Joliet Junior College cannot continue to fulfill its mission without each of you. I am appreciative of your support and collaboration in making the nation's first public community college the first choice.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to announce the addition of Amanda Quinn to our team as the new Assistant Director of Resource Development.

Amanda's focus will be directed toward building corporate relationships in our community. Many of our academic areas work with area businesses to develop curriculum and training for the local workforce. These relationships are vital to our continued growth and academic and career curriculum innovation.

Amanda will also explore monetary and in-kind support while connecting these businesses to the campus community. In this time of significant divestment in public higher education, Joliet Junior College must rely on the philanthropy of community partners to maintain its level of quality and excellence.



In turn, the continued generosity of Foundation donors helps assure JJC's ability to provide access to education through scholarships and other investments in equipment and classroom resources. If your business or organization would be interested in exploring a partnership with Joliet Junior College, I encourage you to contact Amanda at (815) 280-2693.

Our recent completion of the City Center Campus and Event Center have opened up several naming opportunities for these facilities. These opportunities and recognition on the Center's donor wall are a wonderful way to leave your legacy and invest in the nation's first community college.

Ultimately, it is only together that we can prepare diverse learners to meet and exceed the career and training needs of our community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Mulvey
Executive Director, Resource Development

JJC District 525 Board of Trustees
Robert Wunderlich, *Chairman*
Andy Mihelich, *Vice Chairman*
Maureen Broderick, *Secretary*
Patricia Deiters
Kathleen Duong, *Student Trustee*
Alicia Morales
Dan O'Connell
Mike O'Connell

JJC Alumni Board 2016-2017 Directors
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Doug Brusatte, *'71*
Luann DiMonte, *'85*
Ken Kroll, *'08*
Anita Kursell, *'96*
Ramsey Mallory, *'90*
Doug Ostrem, *'68*
Phyllis Pemble, *Community Liaison*
Susan Torres, *'02*
Daniel Warning, *'06*
Ericka Williams, *'08*
Marie Wilson, *'63*

Information is subject to change.

CONNECTIONS a Joliet Junior College Magazine
Volume 2, Issue 9
The purpose of Connections is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, Connections serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Connections is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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A special thank you to DePaul University's Enrollment Management and Marketing department for their assistance in organizing the cover story photo shoot.

JJC Celebrates the Inauguration of Dr. Judy Mitchell

By Rachel Rose





Dr. Mitchell with JJC President Emeritus J.D. Ross and JJC Alumni Board Interim President Ericka Williams.



Feb. 1, 2017, was a day of celebration at JJC as the college commemorated the inauguration of its ninth president, Dr. Judy Mitchell.

Dr. Mitchell spent the morning at a special event for students, meeting and speaking with more than 100 students as they came and went from classes.

Later that evening, a crowd of approximately 250 JJC employees, students, community members and elected officials gathered in the U-Building auditorium on Main Campus for a formal event.

While Mitchell was appointed to the position of college president by a unanimous Board of Trustees vote in September 2016 and had served in an interim role since March 2016, the day's events provided an opportunity to publicly confirm and celebrate her appointment, and allow her to share her vision for the future of the institution, which is based on four pillars of success: financial stability, academic programming, student success, and community and philanthropic engagement.

"It is imperative we have a strong foundation to lead us into the future," she said. "We have a proud history at this institution as the first public community college in the nation. It is through this lens of unparalleled innovation and our history of revolutionizing local higher education, that I consider the future of Joliet Junior College."

Mitchell also shared that her beginnings at JJC as an adult student more than 20 years ago influence the choices she makes as the college's president.

"This institution, from the start, took good care of me as a returning adult student," she said. "At that point, I hadn't been inside a classroom for over 10 years, let alone a college classroom. When I walk the halls of our campus today, and spend time with our students in those same classrooms, my collective thoughts are this: 'What can I do, each and every day, to give back to the institution that gave so much to me?'"



Speakers at the event included JJC Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich, JJC President Emeritus J.D. Ross, JJC Alumni Board Interim President Ericka Williams, and Dr. Mitchell.

In his remarks, Chairman Wunderlich expressed his support for Dr. Mitchell and his optimism for the college under her leadership.

"Dr. Mitchell has a long history at the college," he said. "She has greatly contributed to the JJC's overall growth and success. I know firsthand that her loyalty to the college, its students, its employees, its stakeholders, and to this community, is unwavering. Dr. Mitchell is a true visionary and devoted to student success. She is a servant leader who will always do what is best for this institution."

"It is imperative we have a strong foundation to lead us into the future." - Dr. Judy Mitchell

The evening's festivities were rounded out with beautiful music provided by professors and students from JJC's music program, and delicious food provided by JJC Food Services.

Mitchell began working at the college in 1996, when she was hired as an administrative assistant in the CIOS department. In 2001, she served as the program management specialist in Adult and Family Services, followed by the assistant to the director of administrative services in 2002. In 2004 she became interim director of administrative services, and then the director of business and auxiliary services in 2005. In September 2012, she was appointed to the role of VP of administrative services.

Mitchell received her doctorate in community college leadership from National-Louis University in June 2012. She holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in business and technology from Governors State University. She earned an associate degree in microcomputers for business and computer programming from JJC in 1998.







Dr. Mitchell celebrates with members of the JJC Board of Trustees. From left: Alicia Morales; Maureen Broderick, board secretary; Dan O'Connell; Dr. Mitchell; Patty Deiters; Bob Wunderlich, board chairman.

SUCCESSFUL PATHWAYS

By Sam Ritz

SALEH RUMAN GOT A SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AT JJC AND UTILIZED VALUABLE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS TO TRANSFORM HIS FUTURE AS AN INCOMING JUNIOR AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

When Saleh Ruman stepped foot onto DePaul's Loop Campus for the first time, confident and motivated, he imagined what it would feel like to finally receive a bachelor's degree: a dream he'd been playing over in his mind since high school. As he found a place to sit in his first business class of the year, his relaxed demeanor and focused persona displayed the opposite of the traditional college jitters – because even though it was his first day at DePaul, he already knew what he was in for.

And that's because he'd done it all before. Two years earlier, he started his freshman year at Joliet Junior College.

As a transfer student, Ruman definitely isn't alone. According to a poll conducted by Inside Higher Ed, 60 percent of all community college students across the nation enroll at four-year institutions – and that number increases to 71 percent for community college students who earn associate degrees.

Having been through all the core requirements and business classes, Ruman said JJC prepared him well for his junior status at DePaul, but it was his involvement in student activities that really transformed him into a leader.

In addition to joining the clubs that interested him at JJC, like student government, he became one of the co-founding members of JJC's revamped business club. But perhaps his biggest accomplishment came in 2015: he was offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be JJC's student trustee.

Ruman spent a full year working at the highest level of the college, where he was responsible for representing more than 15,000 students, each with a different background and life story. He spent his time on the board getting to know a lot of those students, working to make sure their voices were heard, while still completing all the homework and class projects that came with being a full-time business student.

After two years at JJC, transferring to DePaul seemed like a piece of cake – and he was ready for it.

TOP TRANSFER SCHOOLS FOR JJC STUDENTS

- DePaul University
- Illinois State University
- University of Illinois
- University of St. Francis
- Northern Illinois University
- Lewis University
- Governors State University



"JJC was an excellent starting point," Ruman said. "And it was such a great experience for me to represent the students on such a broad level. My responsibilities helped me build my leadership skills and I got to see the dynamics of the college from a new level. That viewpoint has definitely helped me grow as a business major."

As one of JJC's strategic goals, encouraging students to transfer by providing education pathways and promoting completion is something the college works toward every day. JJC offers resources for students who plan on transferring, such as counseling, workshops, college representative visits, and events like the annual College Fair in October. For students struggling with coursework, JJC provides resources such as the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC).

Ruman said if it hadn't been for the TLC, he may not have been as successful when he was a JJC student.

"The tutoring center was a great service. It was very helpful, and sometimes I would go there almost every day," he said.

As a Glenbard East High School graduate, Ruman originally chose JJC because it was affordable and close to home (his family had just moved to Joliet), but he also wanted to come to JJC first because he still needed to completely figure out his major. Ruman knew he was going to study business because he had an interest in the subject and also because his older brother told him about his own experience with the major in college.

But he didn't know exactly which concentration he wanted to choose – and there were a lot to pick from – marketing, management, business administration, economics…

Ruman eventually settled on accounting, thanks to guidance from Department Chair Bill O'Connor. O'Connor was one of Ruman's favorite professors, not only





because his classes were interesting, but also because Ruman said he took a special interest in him.

"Saleh is naturally curious and eager to learn," O'Connor said. "He was not afraid to ask questions, which is something I like to see in students because that shows that they are thinking."

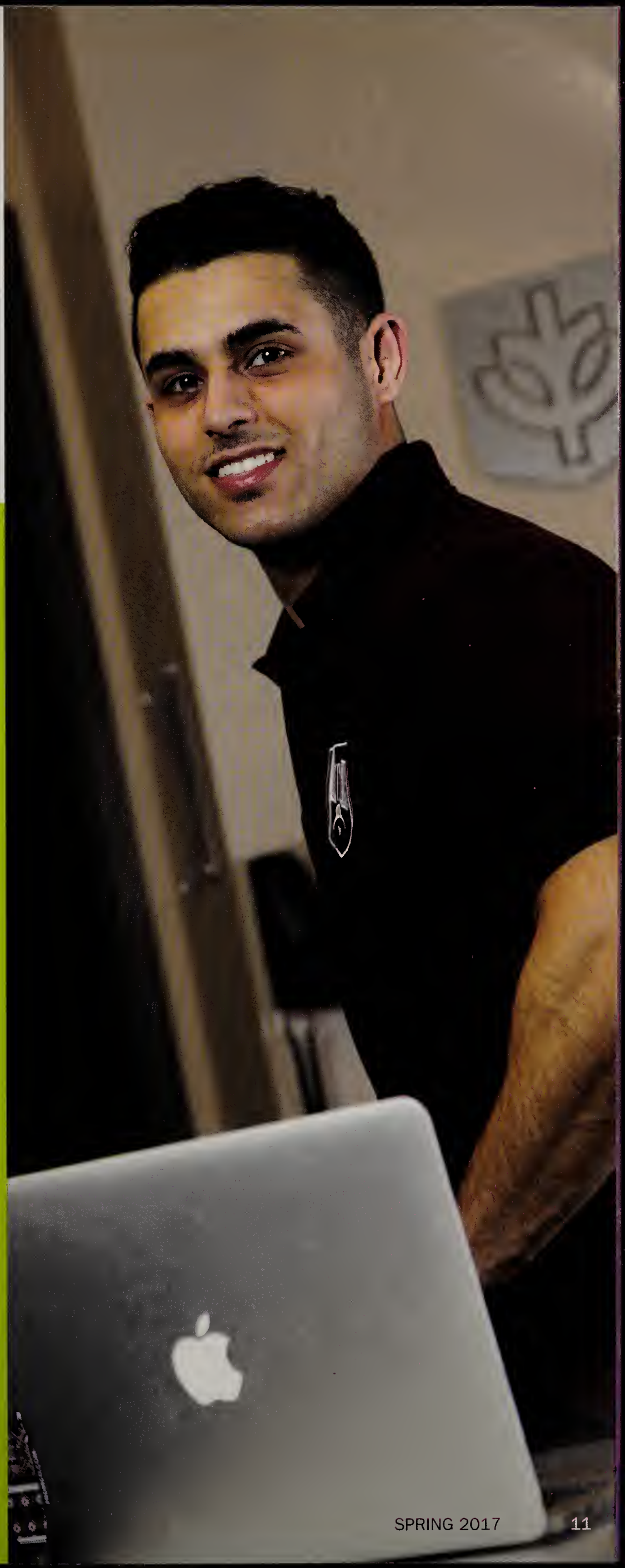
O'Connor also helped Ruman sort through his transfer school choices. When he eventually chose DePaul, O'Connor and other JJC business professors helped to guide him into taking the right classes so that they would transfer over without issues.

Now that he's in his third quarter at DePaul, Ruman has a bright future ahead of him. He plans to apply for an internship, obtain his bachelor's degree, and eventually start a business with his older brother.

WHERE JJC STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED AFTER GRADUATION

- ExxonMobil
- LyondellBasell
- Exelon
- Presence St. Joseph Medical Center
- Silver Cross Hospital
- Morris Hospital
- GROWMARK
- DuPont/Pioneer
- Archer Daniels Midland
- Tyson Fresh Meats
- Elburn Coop
- Davey Tree Care Company
- Diaz Group LLC
- Olympia Fields Country Club
- Green Glen Nursery
- The Growing Place
- Toyota
- Abbott Laboratories
- VCA Aurora Animal Hospital
- Peotone Animal Hospital
- Oak Forest Animal Clinic
- Brookfield Zoo
- Shedd Aquarium
- Stage Right Productions
- Heartland Hospice
- Illinois schools

www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/11/08/high-graduation-rates-community-college-transfers



2016-2019 Strategic Plan Lays Groundwork for Institutional Goals

By Rachel Rose

JJC began the process of updating its strategic plan in 2014, utilizing guidance and strategy from Thomas P. Miller and Associates, and seeking input from employees across the college, students, and the seven-county college district. The result was the college's 2016-2019 strategic plan and goals, new mission and vision statements, and updated definitions for the college's seven core values.

"The strategic planning process was absolutely essential to determining JJC's future direction," said Jim Serr, executive director of information technology. "Our skilled consultants from Thomas P. Miller and Associates facilitated the process for us, helping us define what is most important for the college to focus on moving forward. We had tremendous input from faculty, staff and community members in this process, and I'm confident the new strategic plan has laid a great foundation for the future of this institution."

The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is now a critical blueprint for the college, establishing the college's global priorities and goals through 2019. To monitor achievement milestones, a cross-college committee meets quarterly to gather data on JJC's progress on each of the strategic plan goals, which are then compiled into a quarterly progress report and shared with the college community.

While the process of realizing these new goals is still very much in the early stages, a few successes are already being realized:

1. Awareness of the vision, mission, and strategic goals is significantly higher across the institution compared to previous years.
2. Metrics for each of the five strategic goals have been established and are being monitored, measured, and reported to the institution.
3. The integration between the strategic plan and program improvement process has better aligned projects across the institution.

To view the college's progress, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/strategicplan**.

Mission Statement

Joliet Junior College is an innovative and accessible institution, dedicated to student learning, community prosperity, cultural enrichment, and inclusion. Joliet Junior College delivers quality lifelong learning opportunities empowering diverse students and the community through academic excellence, workforce training, and comprehensive support services.

Vision Statement

Joliet Junior College will be the first choice.

Core Values

Joliet Junior College fosters a caring and friendly environment that embraces diversity and sustainability and encourages personal growth by promoting the following core values.

Respect and Inclusion
Integrity
Collaboration
Humor and Well-Being
Innovation
Quality
Sustainability

Strategic Goals

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Provide Education Pathways that Promote Completion

Offer quality educational pathways that align secondary and postsecondary curricula, course pathways, and industry-recognized credentials promoting access, success, and completion.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Improve Data Accessibility and Integrity

Align data systems and processes to promote a framework of accountability and results tied to college success.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Collaborate with Employers and the Community

Engage and partner with employers and the community to enhance academic programming.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

Improve Community Awareness and Strategic Marketing

Leverage marketing assets to build and solidify the College's image, which is aimed at promoting quality and accessible academic programs.

STRATEGIC GOAL 5

Improve Internal Communications

Establish effective college-wide communications to improve information dissemination, idea generation, and employee engagement.

JJC AWARDED $1.2 MILLION GRANT TO ASSIST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEED

Thanks to a $1.2 million U.S. Department of Education Educational Talent Search (ETS) grant recently awarded to the Project Achieve program at Joliet Junior College, local high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the potential to succeed can now receive the support they need to achieve their higher education goals.

Project Achieve is a popular student service at JJC, similar to the federal outreach program, TRiO, that helps guide students as they complete their education through workshops, counseling and tutoring.

Receiving the ETS grant means that JJC's Project Achieve program will now be able to extend its services to high school students attending Joliet Central. According to DeAndre Butler, director of Project Achieve, this grant will help assist 500 students in the next five years with applying to college (whether it's JJC or another school of their choice), in addition to other academic support services including tutoring in English, math, science and college entrance exams; assistance in completing college applications and financial forms; career counseling; and guided visits to college campuses, museums and other cultural areas.

"We're excited for JJC to build a relationship with the community and Joliet Central, and to provide support to these students," Butler said.

JJC decided to apply for the grant because of the need in the community. The Project Achieve staff wanted to help provide a guidance program that would create positive effects for disadvantaged students.

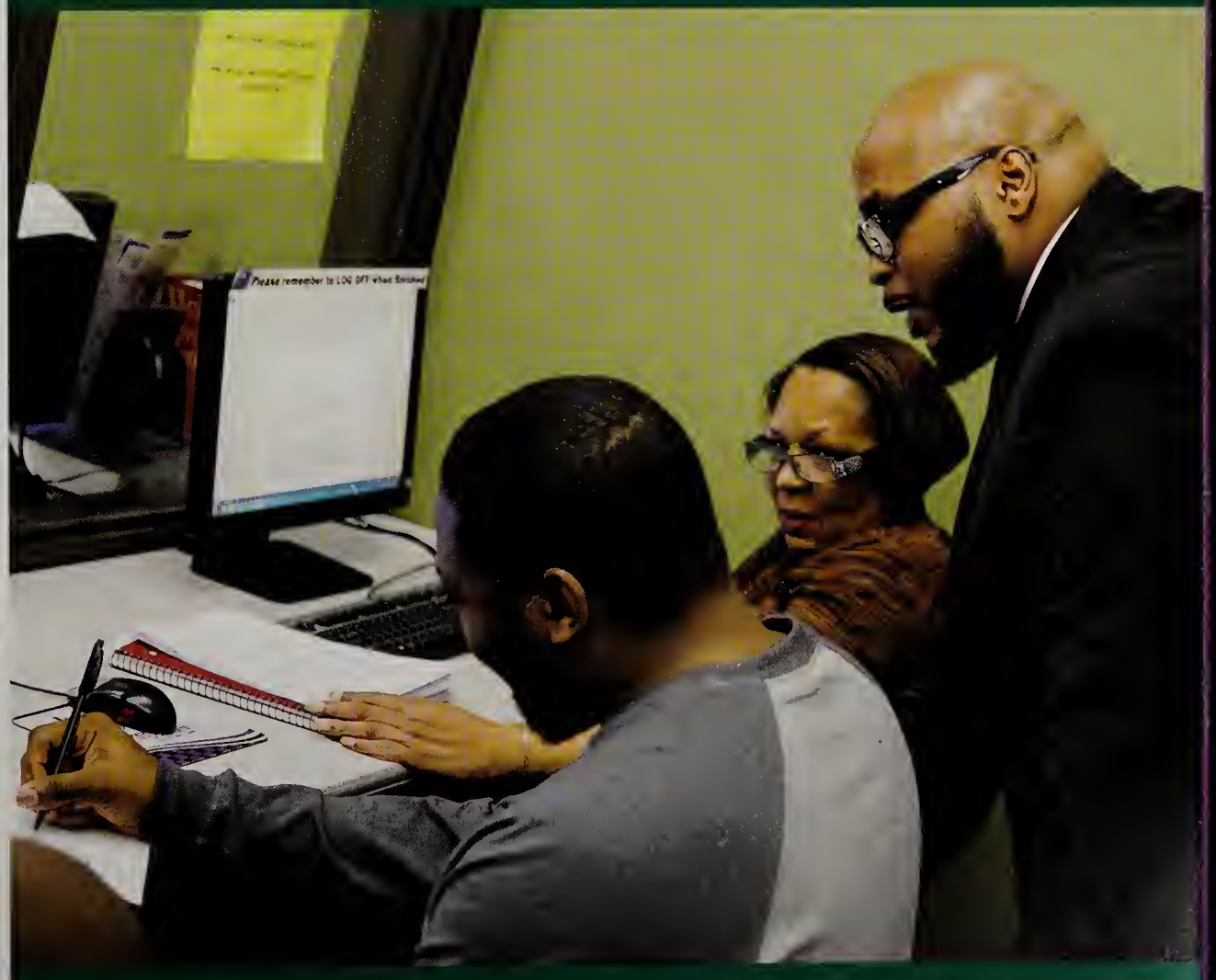
"Students who become part of the Project Achieve program at JJC are very thankful for the connections they make. At the end of the year, we hold a graduation ceremony specifically for these students and it's so great to see how far they have come," Butler said. "We hope to have the same results when it comes to these high school students. We want them to succeed and achieve their goals."

For more information about the ETS program or eligibility requirements, contact Butler at **debutler@jjc.edu**.

Thanks to the Department of Education Educational Talent Search (ETS) grant, JJC's Project Achieve office will now be able to extend its services to high school students attending Joliet Central. Services include tutoring, assistance in completing college applications and financial forms, career counseling and more.



DeAndre Butler counsels students who are a part of the JJC Project Achieve office. Project Achieve is a free, integrated student support program that is federally funded.



PEOPLE THEN and NOW

Chef Patrick Hegarty

THEN

Chef Patrick Hegarty started working at Joliet Junior College in 1982. He had been an executive chef in Europe and the United States prior to teaching nearly 25 years at JJC. During his tenure, he also served as the food services director, department chair, and coordinator of the Renaissance Center, which today is part of the City Center Campus located in downtown Joliet.

In 1995, Chef Hegarty introduced the highly successful "Chef for a Day" program where high school students visit JJC for free to experience what it is like to be a culinary arts student. This unique recruitment program catapulted enrollment and continues to attract students and interested individuals from all over the Midwest.

Also during his time at JJC, Chef Hegarty witnessed the culinary arts program as a showplace for community colleges. As an industry leader, he and his colleagues helped other institutions establish their own culinary arts programs. He was also instrumental in changing the level of education of instructors to include a minimum bachelor's degree along with industry experience. Chef Hegarty believes the caliber of JJC instructors is the main ingredient in how JJC continues to rank among the best.



NOW

Since retiring in 2006, Chef Hegarty and his wife, Susan, moved to Gaylord, Michigan. The Ireland-born chef enjoys carpentry, playing golf, and fly fishing. The chef not only rebuilt their Michigan home but has used his passion for carpentry to help others in need. As a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Chef Hegarty served in New Orleans and Orange, Texas after hurricanes Katrina and Ike as well as in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Next to his wife of nearly 39 years, he loved his JJC students and continues to stay connected with the program. The chef said his dream from nearly 30 years ago is coming to fruition as the culinary arts program moves into to the new City Center Campus in downtown Joliet in 2017.



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The college's budget is designed to fulfill its mission of enriching people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. In order to present a balanced operating budget for the 43nd consecutive year, the following planning goals were employed in developing the FY16 budget:

- Reallocate existing resources to fund new requests
- Address potential impact of the state's fiscal crisis on the college's budget
- Retain realistic projections in property tax revenues
- Anticipate no enrollment growth
- Maintain responsible reserves
- Continue implementation of the master plan and addressing its impact on operating costs
- Implement action plans from the strategic plan with emphasis on the student success initiative

The District's financial status continues to be strong despite the State of Illinois' budget impasse that has drastically reduced state funding. For 2016, the District only received $2.2 million in credit hour grant funding versus an expected $8.7 million and due to this revenue loss, **NET POSITION DECREASED 0.9%** over the course of the year.

The District left open positions vacant and deferred or eliminated expenses to offset this loss of revenue.

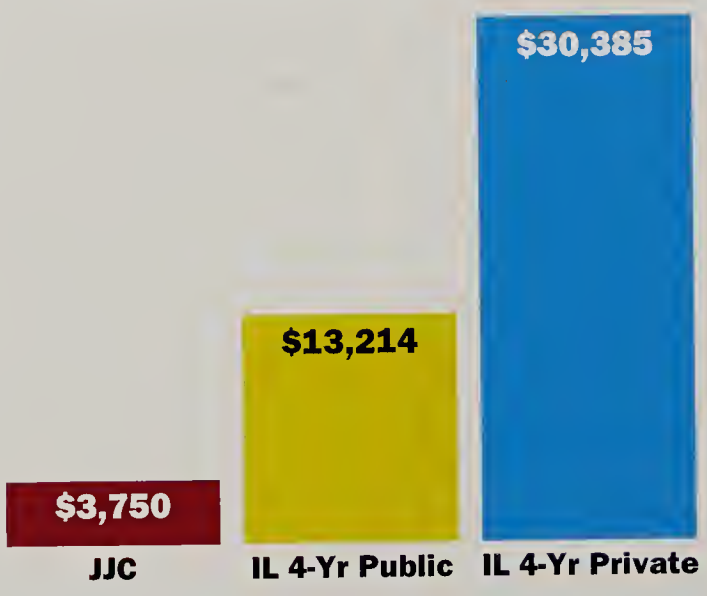
Overall revenues were $143.1 million, $1.2 million less than expenses.

NET TUITION REVENUE DECREASED BY 3.92% due to a decrease in credit hours and a decrease in scholarships and tuition allowances.

TOTAL COSTS INCREASED BY APPROXIMATELY 3.4% or $4.7 million due primarily to a $4.5 million increase in the on-behalf pension contribution from the State of Illinois.

TUITION AND FEE COMPARISON

In FY 16, students saved thousands of dollars by making JJC their first choice in quality education.

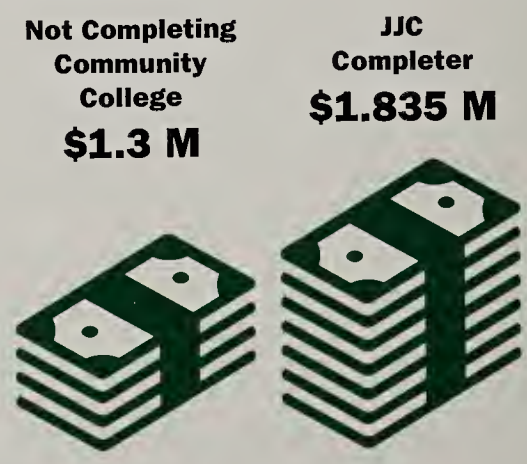


Tuition and fees quoted as full-time (15 hours) based on FY16 rates.

Source: JJC Institutional Research and Effectiveness Office.

HIGHER EARNINGS

A JJC grad can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of about $535,000. This is a 41% increase over the $1.3 million average total lifetime earnings of those not completing a community college program. Investing in a JJC degree pays off.



Source: Illinois Community College Board Economic Impact Study, 2015.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

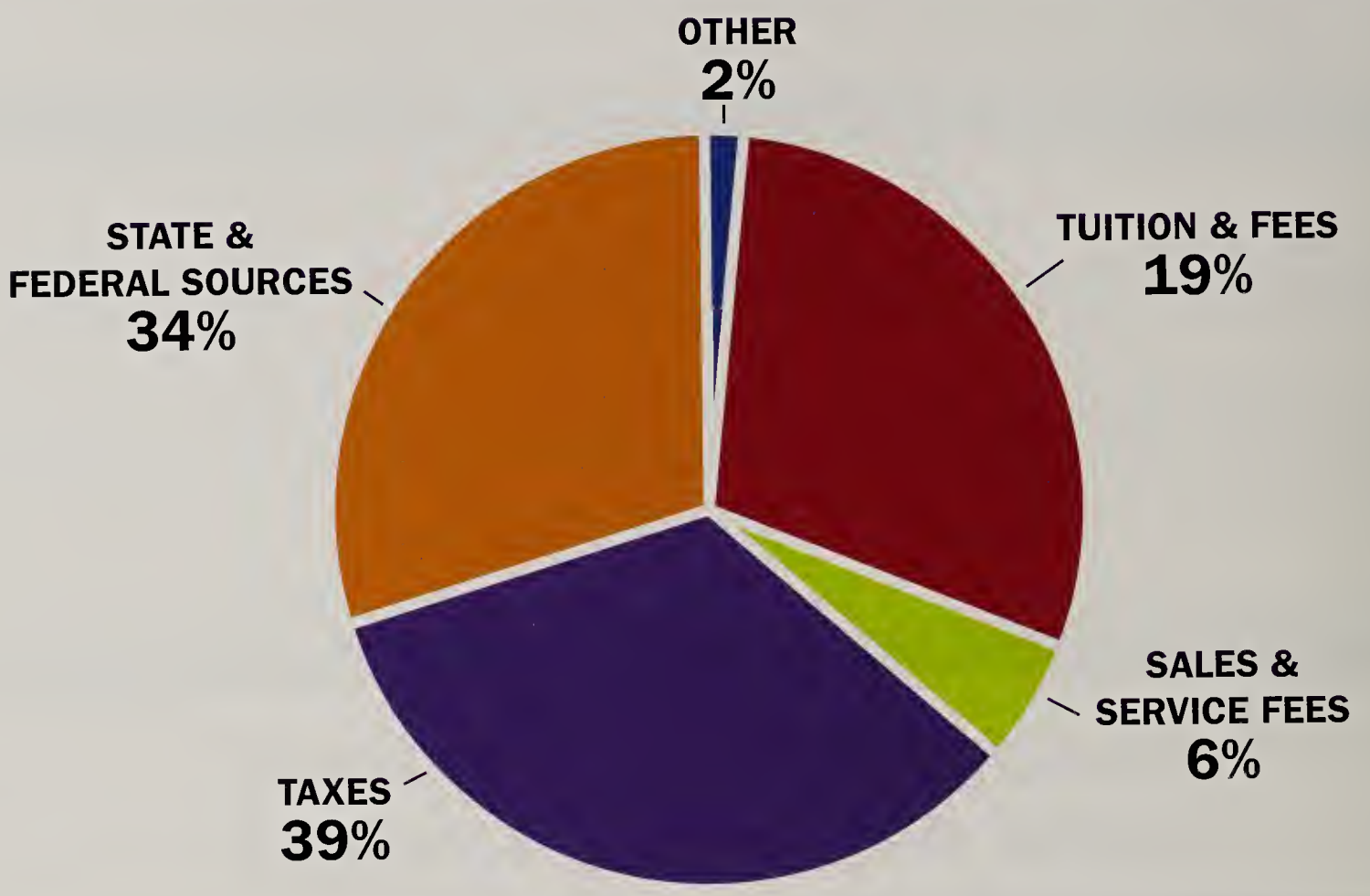
The total cost of all programs and services was $144.3 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services which were $64 million or 44.4% of total expenses.

(in millions of dollars)	2016	2015	INCREASE/DECREASE	% CHANGE
Current Assets	$84.3	$94.9	$(10.6)	–11.2%
Capital Assets	$221.1	$189.2	$31.9	16.9%
Noncurrent Assets	71.1	$92.4	$(21.3)	-23.1%
TOTAL ASSETS	**$376.5**	**$3.76.5**	**–**	**0.0%**
Current Liabilities	$37.7	$30.0	$7.7	25.7%
Long-Term Liabilities	$210.1	$216.6	$(6.5)	-3.0%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$247.8**	**$246.6**	**$1.2**	**0.5%**
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets	$59.9	$43.1	$16.8	39.0%
Restricted	$26.9	$43.1	$(16.2)	-37.6%
Unrestricted	$41.9	$43.7	$(1.8)	-4.1%
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**$128.7**	**$129.9**	**$(1.2)**	**-0.9%**

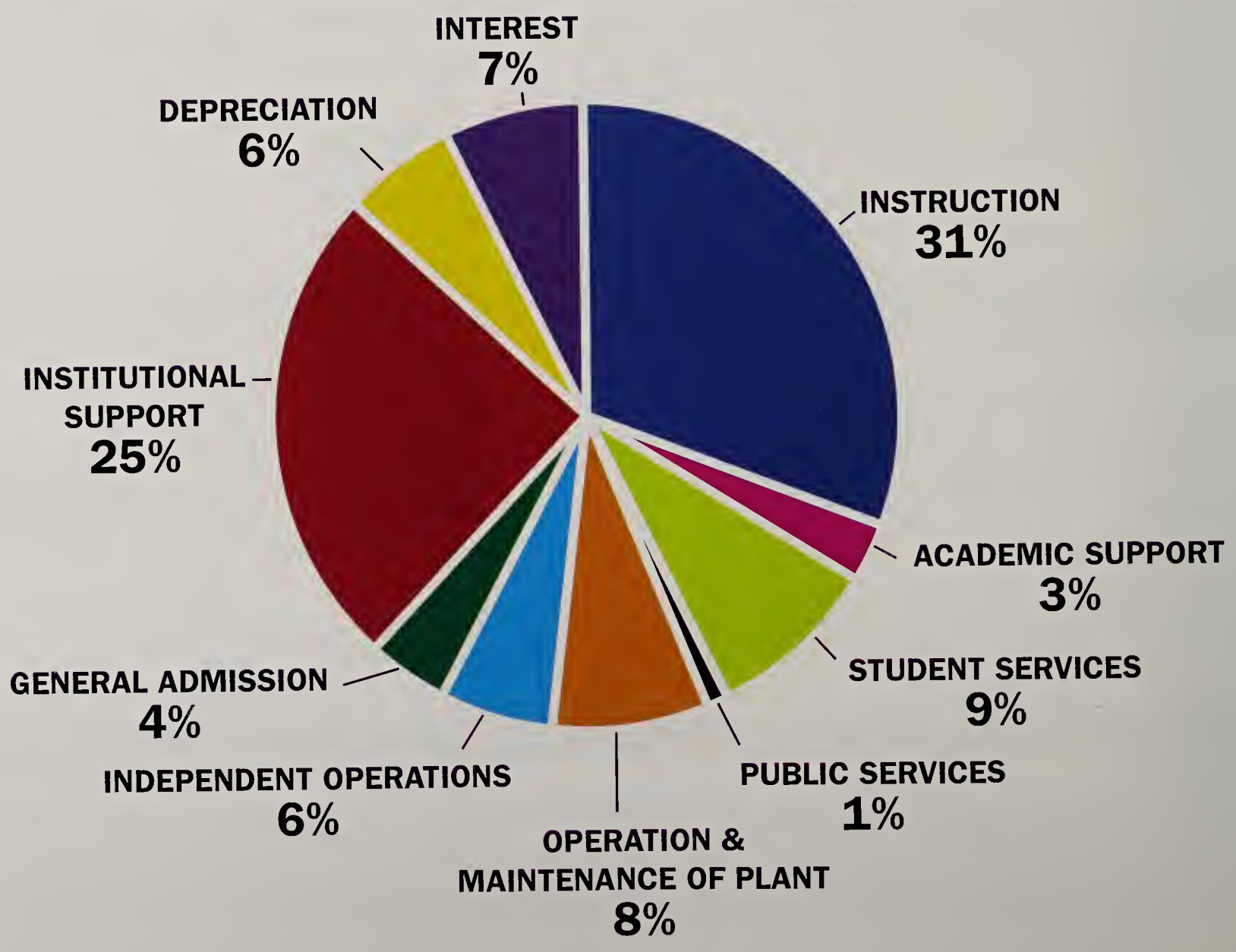
CHANGES IN NET POSITION FROM OPERATING RESULTS

(in millions of dollars)	2016	2015	INCREASE/DECREASE	% CHANGE
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition and Fees	$38.1	$39.8	$(1.7)	-4.3%
Less Scholarships and Allowance	$(10.9)	$(11.5)	$0.6	-5.2%
Net Tuition and Fees	$27.2	$28.3	$(1.1)	-3.9%
Sales and Service Fees	$8.2	$8.4	$(0.2)	-2.4%
Miscellaneous	$0.9	$0.9	–	0.0%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	$55.3	$54.6	$0.7	1.3%
State and Federal Sources	$48.7	$51.1	$(2.4)	-4.7%
Other	$2.8	$3.0	$(0.2)	-6.7%
TOTAL REVENUES	**$143.1**	**$146.3**	**$(3.2)**	**-2.2%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	$44.7	$44.1	$0.6	1.4%
Academic Support	$4.0	$3.8	$0.2	5.3%
Student Services	$12.9	$12.8	$0.1	0.8%
Public Services	$2.4	$2.3	$0.1	4.3%
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	$11.9	$12.0	$(0.1)	-0.8%
Independent Operations	$8.3	$8.5	$(0.2)	-2.4%
General Administration	$5.5	$5.2	$0.3	5.8%
Institutional Support	$36.2	$31.4	$4.8	15.3%
Depreciation	$8.5	$8.2	$0.3	3.7%
Interest	$9.9	$11.3%	$(1.4)	-12.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$144.3**	**$139.6**	**$4.7**	**3.4%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$129.9**	**$123.2**		
End of Year	**$128.7**	**$129.9**		
Decrease in Net Assets	**$(1.2)**	**$6.7**	**$(7.9)**	

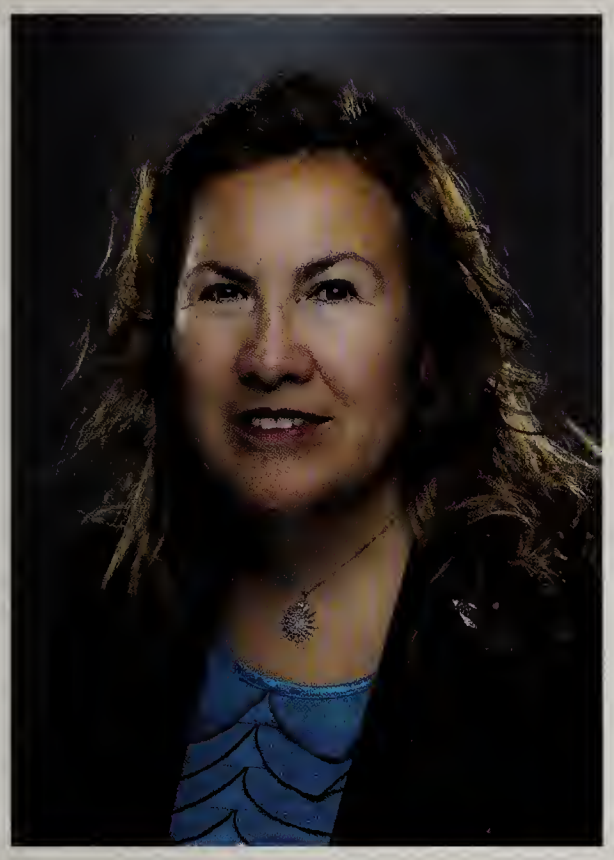
REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016



EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016



FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Rosa Arias Angeles

Foundation President

I'm extremely proud to be serving as president of the JJC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the mission and goals of Joliet Junior College. In my over eight years on the board, I have witnessed amazing growth in financial support thanks to many dedicated alumni and friends of the college. This commitment allows the foundation to support scholarships, programs, equipment and services that enable the college to be the first choice for education in our community. I am pleased to say that we truly make a difference to students pursuing their education at JJC.

The college recently appointed its ninth president, Dr. Judy Mitchell. The vision Dr. Mitchell has for the future of the institution highlights philanthropic engagement as a priority. This "pillar of success" solidifies the partnership between the college and the foundation. We are committed to working together to create opportunities for students to ensure academic success.

We are able to impact so many lives each year because we have amazing supporters, like you, who believe in the work we do. You can help by using the envelope included in this magazine to support those who have dreams to earn a degree from JJC.

For more information on the work of the JJC Foundation, please contact the Executive Director, Kristin Mulvey, at **kmulvey@jjc.edu** or 815-280-2353.

Sincerely,
Rosa Arias Angeles
JJC Foundation, President

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	(JUNE 30, 2016)
Total Current Assets	$19,110,960
Capital Assets, Net	$760,000
TOTAL ASSETS	**$19,870,960**
Total Current Liabilities	$3,000
Total Net Assets	$19,867,960
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$ 19,870,960**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	(JUNE 30, 2016)
Total Revenues	$1,287,401
Total Expenses	$1,462,057
Net Assets	
Beginning of Fiscal Year	$20,042,616
End of Fiscal Year	$19,867,960
Endowment	$11,245,593
Investments	$18,671,322
Annual Contributions	$851,784
Scholarships Awarded	$513,087

Thank You to Our Donors

VISIONARIES - ($10,000.00 +)
Dr. Herman J. Adelmann Trust
Anonymous
Ascend Learning LLC
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Dr. Curtis J. Crawford
DuPage Community Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Lee D. Esworthy
Ms. Irma E. Fisher
Mrs. Mildred A. Graham
Hollywood Casino–Joliet
Mr. William B. Johnson
Mr. Gary and Mrs. Daylene Lichtenwalter
LyondellBasell - Morris Complex
Dr. Kent Monroe
North American Council of Automotive Teachers
Shoup Manufacturing
Mr. John F. Stobart
Mr. David W. Teater
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International Society of Automation – Will DuPage Section
Willow Springs Foundation
Mr. Larry R. Wollschlager

FOUNDERS - ($5,000.00 +)
Amazon
American Floral Endowment
Best Buy Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Christiansen
Demonica Kemper Architects
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Ms. Rose Mancuso
Mr. John Manner
Ms. Natalie J. Miller
Ms. Roxanne Munch
Mr. William Proulx
Estate of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Sczepaniak
Society of Manufacturing Engineers - Calumet Chapter
Mr. Michael Sullivan
Estate of Mr. George E. Vitoux

PATRONS - ($2,500.00 +)
Bisping Construction Co.
Mr. Joseph F. Burla
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ghilain
K. A. Steel Chemicals, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Manthei
The Northern Trust Company
Rathbun Cservenyak and Kozol, LLC
Sentinel Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Richard J. Siegel
Spine and Pain Center
Suburban Building Officials Conference
Ms. Candice M. Todd
Mr. and Mrs. Steven C. Tyriver

BENEFACTORS - ($1,000.00 +)
Mr. Gregory Andresen
Anonymous
Arrow Pin & Products, Inc.
Mr. Patrick Asher
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Illinois Road and Transportation
Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association
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US Bank–JJC Branch
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The GROWMARK Foundation
1st Farm Credit Services
Air Quality, Inc.
American Legion Riders
Ms. Catherine Anderson
Mrs. Rosa A. Angeles
Mr. and Mrs. John Angelico
The Baum Community Charitable Trust
Belstra Milling
Berman and Sons Accounting and Consulting
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bernard
Ms. Linda Blanco
Mr. Timothy J. Borchert
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Mr. Douglas G. Foss
Gallagher Benefit Services
Mr. Adam Heidenreich
Mr. Thomas M. Heniff
Mr. David A. Hurst
I-8 Wrestling Coaches Association
J & J Repair Inc.
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Presence St. Joseph Medical Center
The Private Bank
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Ms. Michele Schwellenbach
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Ms. Donna Theimer
TIMM Electric, Inc.
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Mr. Daniel F. Warning
Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon CPA
Ms. Ellen Bossert L. White
Will County Farm Bureau Foundation
Women of the Rotary Club of Joliet

PARTNERS - ($250.00 +)

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Mr. Brad Angus
Ms. Mary A. Blackmon
Mr. Erik Blomstedt
Mrs. Virginia Bouie
Mr. Richard R. Brandolino
Mr. Michael Brncick
Mr. Rodney G. Bullock
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Dr. Francis J. Zeller

Those who gave $250 or more are listed here.
For a complete list, see
www.jjc.edu/foundation/Pages/list-donors.aspx

A FRYING PAN AS A PALETTE AND A DINNER PLATE AS A CANVAS:

THE DELICIOUSLY ECLECTIC BEGINNING OF JJC'S CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

By Amy Chellino

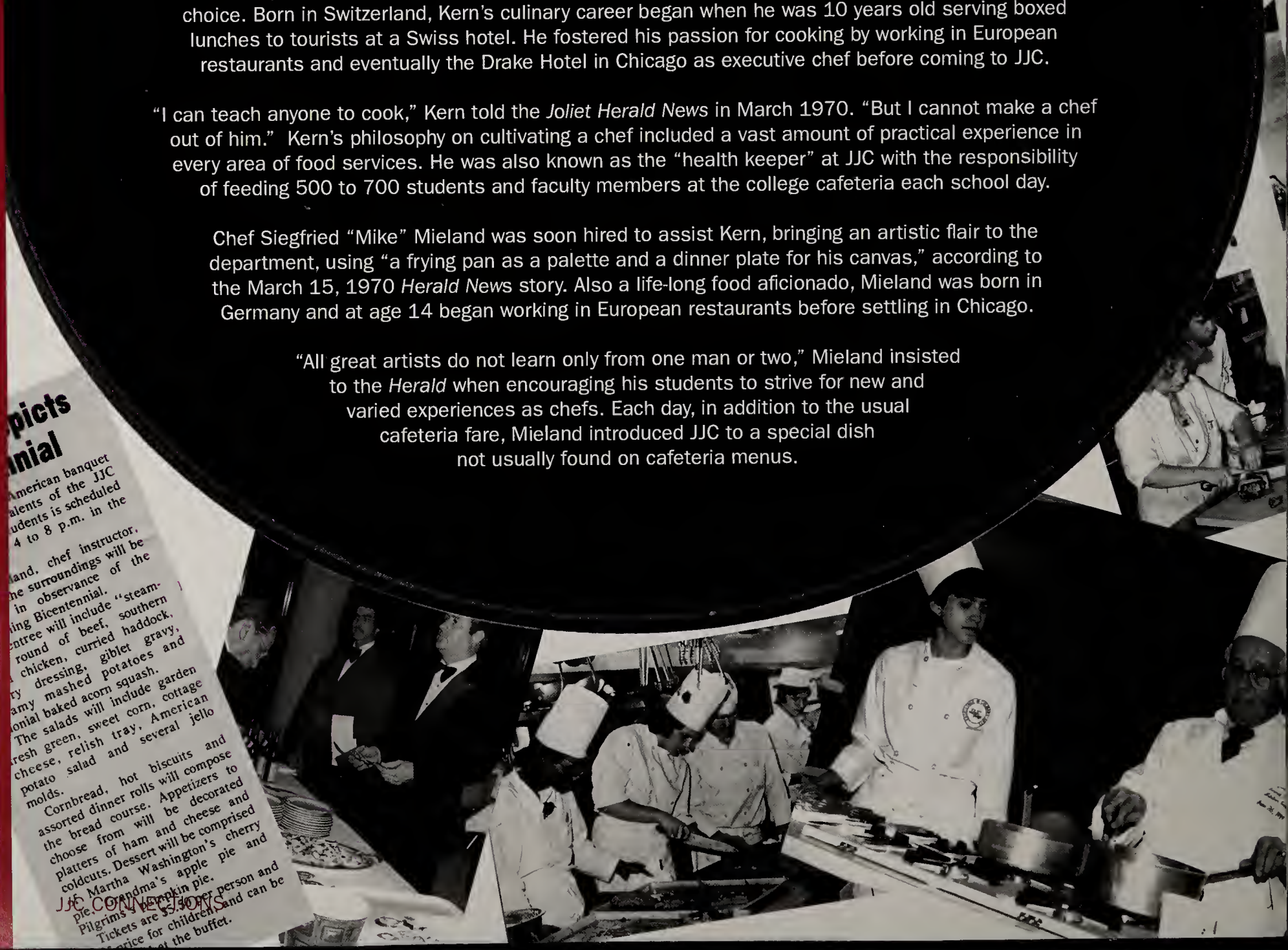
How does this sound for lunch: *Maryland lump crab cake, fresh bake shop toasted English muffin, house smoked Canadian bacon, truffle-citrus hollandaise, black pepper pommes frites?* This delectable crab benedict is part of the continually changing menu at JJC's Saveur restaurant where dishes are skillfully prepared by culinary arts students. This spring, the department is settling into their new state-of-the-art home at the City Center Campus. This is a monumental advancement for a program which has grown to become one of the most nationally-renowned culinary programs in America. Looking back, the foundation for this program was set in 1970 when two chefs with European backgrounds were brought on to assist with the formation of the department.

With the growth of the hotel and restaurant industry, a need for a culinary arts program was recognized at JJC in 1969 and Chef Claude Kern was hired as director of the program to develop the curriculum and direct JJC's food services. As a lifelong chef, Kern was a natural choice. Born in Switzerland, Kern's culinary career began when he was 10 years old serving boxed lunches to tourists at a Swiss hotel. He fostered his passion for cooking by working in European restaurants and eventually the Drake Hotel in Chicago as executive chef before coming to JJC.

"I can teach anyone to cook," Kern told the *Joliet Herald News* in March 1970. "But I cannot make a chef out of him." Kern's philosophy on cultivating a chef included a vast amount of practical experience in every area of food services. He was also known as the "health keeper" at JJC with the responsibility of feeding 500 to 700 students and faculty members at the college cafeteria each school day.

Chef Siegfried "Mike" Mieland was soon hired to assist Kern, bringing an artistic flair to the department, using "a frying pan as a palette and a dinner plate for his canvas," according to the March 15, 1970 *Herald News* story. Also a life-long food aficionado, Mieland was born in Germany and at age 14 began working in European restaurants before settling in Chicago.

"All great artists do not learn only from one man or two," Mieland insisted to the *Herald* when encouraging his students to strive for new and varied experiences as chefs. Each day, in addition to the usual cafeteria fare, Mieland introduced JJC to a special dish not usually found on cafeteria menus.



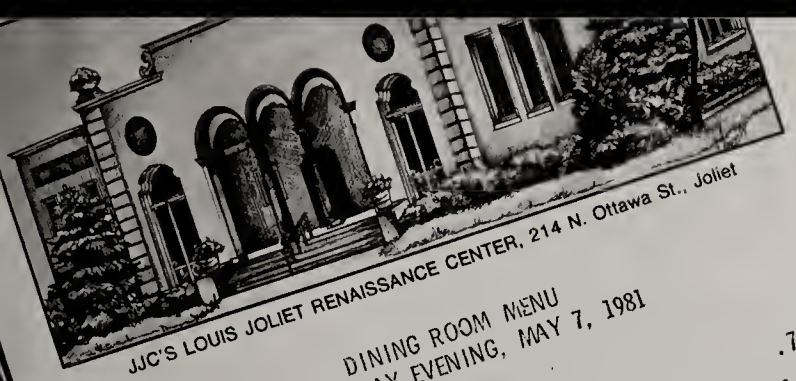
picts
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udents is scheduled
4 to 8 p.m. in the

land, chef instructor,
he surroundings will be
in observance of the
ing Bicentennial.
ntree will include "steam-
round of beef, southern
chicken, curried haddock,
ry dressing, giblet gravy,
amy mashed potatoes and
onial baked acorn squash.
The salads will include garden
resh green, sweet corn, cottage
cheese, relish tray, American
potato salad and several jello
molds.

Cornbread, hot biscuits and
assorted dinner rolls will compose
the bread course. Appetizers to
choose from will be decorated
platters of ham and cheese and
coldcuts. Dessert will be comprised
of Martha Washington's cherry
pie, Grandma's apple pie and
Pilgrim's pumpkin pie.
Tickets are $3.50 per person and
price for children and can be
at the buffet.

JJC CONNECTIONS

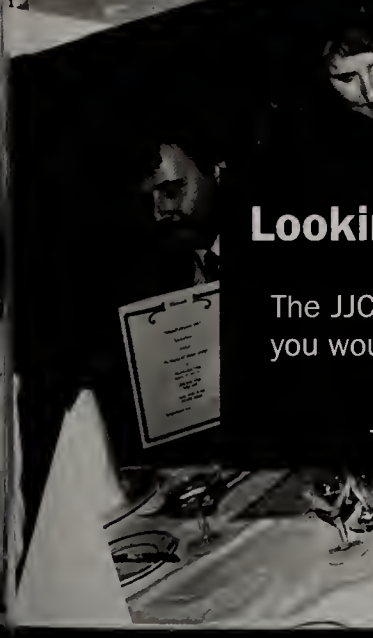












"[Mieland] put on a German buffet with the students," Chef Michael McGreal, current department chair, said. "To this day, I have never had potato pancakes, braised red cabbage, sauerbraten and sauerkraut that could come even close to his."

Eight students were first enrolled in the new Culinary Arts program when classes began in February 1970. By 1973, the program grew to 150 students and has continued to flourish. The first-year curriculum focused on each station in the kitchen—the broiler station, fry cook station, storeroom, service line and sanitation department. The second year of study was on the fine art of cooking with pastries and preparing banquets. Chef Mieland taught hands-on in the kitchen while Chef Kern lectured in the classroom. Together, they emphasized the hallmarks of cooking on taste, smell and feel, preparing food in a timely manner and cost and planning management.

From the beginning, JJC's culinary students and faculty have continuously won numerous prizes and national awards. Chef Kern and Chef Mieland set the groundwork for the exceptional culinary arts department that continues to delight and tantalize the community, driven by McGreal's belief that "being a chef is not just a career, but a purpose-driven calling that fulfills and enriches not only our lives, but the lives of those who come and share food with us."

Currently, there are 250 students enrolled in the program and there are eight full-time and two part-time chef instructors.

"Each chef brings a different specialty and expertise, combined with a true passion for this career and commitment to those who want to learn our trade," McGreal said.

Experience the delectable, made from scratch cuisine at the brand new City Center Campus and save room for dessert. You just may find the heavenly lemon tart on the menu: toasted marshmallow ice-cream, salted caramel sauce, and a pistachio crumble. Yum!

NEWS BRIEFS



L-R: Caroline Portlock, JJC Director of Workforce Development; Shannon Dudek, Superintendent, Morris School District 54; JJC Trustee Mike O'Connell; Rep. David Welter; JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell; Mayor Dick Kopczick, City of Morris; Marsha McCormick, Director of JJC Extended Campuses

JJC CELEBRATES NEW MORRIS LOCATION

Nearly 80 people attended the ribbon cutting event for the new JJC Morris Education Center on Oct. 26, 2016.

The college moved into the former Shabbona Middle School facility at 725 School Street over the summer, and began offering classes for the Fall 2016 semester. The college has had a presence in Grundy County since 2001, but moved to the new location to double the number of students served to 600 with the expansion in space.

Guests at the event had the chance to tour the 5,000 square feet of space the college occupies, which includes a resource area for job seekers, tutoring/testing space, six classrooms, two computer labs, and space for Grundy Workforce Services, a long-time partner of the college.

Several elected officials came out to support the event, including JJC Trustee Mike O'Connell; State Rep. David Welter; Greg Ridenour on behalf of Congressman Kinzinger's office; Harold Vota, Grundy County Board member; Chris Balkema, Grundy County Board president; Mayor Dick Kopczick, City of Morris; Dennis Best, Morris High School District president; and Pat Stevens, Jerry White, and Bonnie Cap, board members of Morris School District 54. Shannon McNeil of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller presented the college with a proclamation recognizing the new facility and supporting its continued success.

JJC'S SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

JJC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program has achieved national accreditation and is now one of only six Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited sonography programs in Illinois with general concentration.

For sonography students, that is the first step in obtaining the DMS license, with the next step being to pass a specialty examination of their choice.

Employment opportunities for these graduates are generally found in hospitals, outpatient medical centers, imaging centers and doctors' offices. In addition, career advancement opportunities exist in education, administration, research and in commercial companies as education or application specialists, sales representatives, technical advisors, etc.

Miller explained that there are many benefits of enrolling in JJC's CAAHEP-accredited sonography program. For example, students are qualified to sit for the Abdomen and Obstetrics/Gynecology specialty examinations given by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) 60 days prior to successful completion of the program. This allows students to become registered or licensed diagnostic medical sonographers the same day they graduate, which is mid-December.

For the more information about the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and admissions criteria, visit **www.jjc.edu/info/dms** or contact Elena Miller, sonography program coordinator, at **emiller@jjc.edu** or **(815) 280-2588**.



HAUNTED 5K RAISES $40,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS, ATHLETICS

The JJC Foundation and Athletics Department partnered together for another successful Haunted 5K Run and Walk at the college's Main Campus on Oct. 23, 2016.

Altogether, the 2016 Haunted 5K raised $40,000 for student scholarships, college programs and athletics.

"This event continues to be a great success in not only raising funds for our students, but bringing faculty, staff, and community members together for a fun, family-friendly activity on our beautiful nature trails," said Executive Director of the JJC Foundation Kristi Mulvey. "We look forward to even more wonderful 5K events in the future."

With nearly 430 registered participants, more than 50 volunteers and dozens of fans to cheer on the runners and walkers, it was a fun-filled morning for all involved, complete with perfect weather.

The top three winners in each age and gender category received a plaque or a medal, and a trophy was awarded to the fastest runner in costume. The JJC Nursing Team took home the top team award with 54 registered participants.

Since the Foundation began hosting the annual 5K eight years ago, a total of nearly $240,000 has been raised.



SPRING 2017 MASTER PLAN PROJECT UPDATES



EVENT CENTER

The JJC Event Center on Main Campus is on schedule and in budget. It features a fitness center for student athletes, two basketball courts, configuration options for competition basketball and volleyball tournaments, portable batting cages, bleachers and seating (to accommodate both athletic competitions and graduation ceremonies), athletic staff office spaces, and a presentation room.

The Event Center will host the May 2017 JJC graduation ceremony, marking the first time the college has been able to host commencement on Main Campus since 2008. The college will host an official grand opening event for the facility in fall 2017.

Facility rentals are also available. Please contact **Susan Stockwell**, events coordinator, at **(815) 280-2524** or **sstockwe@jjc.edu**.



CITY CENTER CAMPUS

JJC opened the new City Center Campus for the spring 2017 semester, welcoming students in the programs of culinary arts, workforce development and adult education. The six-story, 96,000 square-foot building features five different culinary arts learning kitchens, a library, several classrooms, computer labs, and two student-run restaurants that are open to the public.

Additionally, as of April 2017, the renovation of the historic Renaissance Center is wrapping up with a significant amount of flooring and ceiling work being completed, electric, plumbing, masonry and HVAC upgrades, new paint, and several areas remodeled since the culinary arts program was entirely moved to the City Center Campus next door.

A grand opening event was held for both facilities on April 11.



ROMEOVILLE CAMPUS EXPANSION

The Romeoville Expansion is on time and in budget, slated to open for classes in the fall 2017 semester. Over the last 10 years, enrollment at Romeoville has grown 45 percent with current enrollment topping out at 4,000 students. The 50,028 square-foot expansion includes space for: student services, bookstore, cafeteria, classrooms, laboratories, space for campus police, and faculty and adjunct offices. Additionally, students will be able to earn an associate in arts degree or an associate in science degree entirely from the Romeoville Campus location.

A grand opening event for the Romeoville Campus will be in fall 2017.

JJC EVENTS

JJC ALUMNI EVENTS

36th Annual Alumni Brunch · Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m.

Honoring the classes of 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007, as well as the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and Susan H. Wood Award recipients.

Joliet Junior College Main Campus · U-Building Auditorium
Email alumni@jjc.edu for more information.

PLANETARIUM SHOWS

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the **Herbert Trackman** Planetarium at **(815) 280-6682** or visit **jjc.edu/info/planetarium**.

TUESDAY SHOWS, 7:30P.M.

April 11	Galileo, the Power of the Telescope
April 25	Asteroids and Comets
May 9	Seasonal Skies
May 23	Humans and Robots in Space
June 6	Viewing the Solar Eclipse

THURSDAY SHOWS, 6:30P.M.

April 6	The Little Star that Could
April 20	Cosmic Journeys
May 4	Mars
May 18	Seasonal Skies
June 1	We Go to the Moon
June 15	Viewing the Solar Eclipse

FINE ARTS EVENTS

To learn more, contact the Fine Arts Department at **(815) 280-2200** or **visit jjc.edu/info/fine-arts.**

MUSIC

April 9	Fine Arts Theatre · 3 p.m. Musica Viva featuring Casey McGrath on violin and Daniela Broderick on piano
April 26	Fine Arts Theatre · 11 a.m. · Student Recital
April 30	Fine Arts Theatre · 7:30 p.m. Chorale Masterworks Concert featuring JJC Cha.m.ber Singers and JJC Community Chorale
May 5	Fine Arts Theatre · 7:30 p.m. · Jazz Band Spring Concert
May 7	Fine Arts Theatre · 3 p.m. · Community Band Spring Concert
May 9	Fine Arts Theatre · 7:30 p.m. · Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Concert
May 11	Fine Arts Theatre · 7:30 p.m. ·Honors Recital

THEATRE

"PROOF" BY DAVID AUBURN

April 20-22 and **26-29**	Black Box Theatre · 7:30 p.m.
April 22-23 and **29**	Black Box Theatre · 2 p.m.
May 4-6	Black Box Theatre · 2 p.m. & 7:30p.m.Spring Festival of One Acts
June 12-16	Touring Children's Theatre Production Please call director Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 to book a tour appearance.

ART

April 24-June 29	Laura A. Sprague Gallery Joliet Junior College Arts Students' Juried Exhibition



SUCCESS

JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

The success of Joliet Junior College and its students could not have been possible without the support of legacy gifts.

By including JJC in your will or estate plan, you are ensuring that the college will continue to offer excellent, accessible and comprehensive learning experiences to students in the communities we serve, as well as benefiting you and your loved ones.

To learn more about how you can support the future of JJC and generations of students, please contact **Kristin Mulvey**, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at **kmulvey@jjc.edu** or **(815) 280-2353**.



MADE POSSIBLE BY...YOUR LEGACY!

JOLIET
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CONNECTIONS

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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber. For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**



Kimberly Minarich, a 2006 graduate, credits her JJC professors for shaping her music career. Minarich, a choir director and music teacher at Monroe Middle School in Wheaton, Ill., has performed throughout the United States and Europe as a pianist, flutist, vocalist, teacher, and musical director. In 2015, she was awarded the Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction award.

"Because of JJC, I not only went into a career that I love, but also met the love of my life!"
–Kimberly Minarich '06

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine



TOGETHER

THREE SISTERS PERSIST AND ACHIEVE AT JJC

FALL 2017





TASTE GREATNESS IN THE MAKING

Joliet Junior College student-operated restaurants Saveur, Thrive and Lavu Culinary Kiosk

JJC culinary students will whip up a masterful array of tasty entrees for your lunch, dinner or snack for a fraction of the price of most upscale restaurants. You provide the students with the patron experience and they provide you with unmatched, gourmet cuisine that is sure to make your taste buds sing.

Saveur
Tuesday and Thursday
11:00a.m. - 12:45p.m.
Phone: (815) 280-1200

Thrive
Monday 11:30a.m. - 12:45p.m.
Wednesday 11:00a.m. - 12:45p.m.
Friday 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
(reservations recommended)
Phone: (815) 280-1201

Lavu Culinary Kiosk
Monday thru Friday
7:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Hours of operation fluctuate depending on the time of year. Please call ahead or visit jjc.edu/info/restaurants.

Thank you for supporting our culinary students!



FREE DESSERT!

Bring in this coupon for a complimentary Chef selected dessert with minimum $8.00 purchase. One coupon per person.

Offer expires March 31, 2018

CONNECTIONS

CONTENTS



JJC Board Approves College's 45th Balanced Budget

Despite uncertainty regarding state funding, the college balanced its budget with conservative assumptions and responsible spending.



Herrera Sisters Persist and Achieve at JJC

Sisters Itzamar, Erika and Andrea Herrera are thankful they can rely on each other for support and motivation as they work toward similar educational goals at Joliet Junior College.



JJC Brings Commencement Back to Main Campus

This year's event brought the ceremony back to campus for the first time since 2011. Around 3,200 people gathered in the Event Center to celebrate the 2017 graduates.



Alumni Brunch Celebrates 36 Years

More than 130 alumni and friends attended the 36th annual brunch, which honored two distinguished alumni and inducted two professors into the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame.



State of the College Address

Dr. Mitchell shared updates with key stakeholders and emphasized that to grow JJC, we must invest in JJC. While most of higher ed is in survival mode, JJC is poised for growth.

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30 Calendar of Events

CONNECTIONS



Dear JJC supporters,

I've spent recent weeks reflecting on the significant events and opportunities that have shaped our year so far: the launch of new academic programs and partnerships, the accreditation of our nursing and sonography programs, and the awarding of nearly $600,000 in scholarships to support our students, to name a few.

We also held our second annual State of the College event in August, which gathered nearly 100 community and organizational partners to learn how their investment and collaboration with the college has positively impacted our students and programs. JJC's success is dependent on our collaboration with each of you. These types of collaborative initiatives come in many forms, which you'll read about throughout this issue.

But we've encountered critical challenges this year, too. We made the difficult decision this past spring to increase our 2017-2018 tuition rate by $19 per credit hour to combat state funding issues. Yet when the state of Illinois finally passed a budget in July after two years and allocated unexpected monies to JJC, it was important to the Board of Trustees and to the college administration to rebate a portion of those funds back to our students.

Then in September, President Trump announced the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, otherwise known as DACA. DACA has provided educational and career opportunities for over 750,000 undocumented young people who were brought to the United States as minors, many of whom have no ties to the countries from which they came.

This action impacted our campus community greatly. It is critical to reiterate that Joliet Junior College is an institution that is accessible to all, regardless of status. We are an institution whose mission is to serve and educate all members of our community. I will continue to support this mission, in addition to working with our federal legislators and other partners, with the hope that together we can find a solution to support these young people. They are truly important contributors to our campus community and to our district.

The programs we have in place to support undocumented students and so many others are comprehensive and help hundreds of students each year reach their educational goals. In fact, the Herrera sisters, featured on the cover of this magazine, have directly benefitted from programs offered by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs for DACA students and have flourished.

This is, without question, an incredibly challenging time for our students and their families. Supporting inclusion for all will remain an institutional priority. JJC continues to be successful today because of our deeply embedded value system and consistent belief in the spirit of collaboration to meet these challenges.

What remains constant is how our employees, donors, and friends walk the talk of our mission and vision statement each and every day; we are committed to student learning, community prosperity, cultural enrichment, and inclusion; always keeping our community and students at the forefront, and ensuring student success.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President

Queridos amigos de JJC,

Eh pasado las últimas semanas reflexionando sobre los eventos significantes y oportunidades que han moldeado nuestro año hasta hoy: el inicio de nuevos programas académicos y alianzas, la acreditación de nuestros programas de enfermería y ecografía, y la adjudicación de casi $600,000 en becas para apoyo de nuestros estudiantes, solo para nombrar algunos.

También tuvimos el segundo informe anual sobre el estado de nuestra institución en agosto, en el cual se reunieron casi 100 organizaciones y compañeros de la comunidad para aprender como su inversión y colaboración con el colegio ha impactado de forma positiva a nuestros estudiantes y programas. El éxito de JJC depende de la colaboración que tenemos con cada uno de ustedes. Este tipo de iniciativas de colaboración toman varias formas, sobre las cuales usted podrá leer en esta edición.

Pero, también hemos enfrentado retos críticos durante este año. La primavera pasada, tomamos la difícil decisión de aumentar el costo de colegiatura por $19 por hora de instrucción para combatir los problemas de finanzas del estado. Pero, cuando el estado de Illinois finalmente aprobó un presupuesto en julio, después de dos años y aloco dinero inesperado a JJC, fue importante para la mesa directiva y la administración del colegio el reembolsar a estudiantes na porción de estos fondos.

Después, en septiembre, el presidente Trump anuncio la rescisión del programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, también conocido como DACA. DACA ha aportado oportunidades educacionales y laborales a más de 750,000 personas jóvenes indocumentadas quienes fueron traídas a los Estados Unidos siendo menores, muchos de estos no tienen vínculos con los países de los cuales vinieron.

Esta acción fue muy impactante para la comunidad de nuestro plantel. Es crítico el reiterar que Joliet Junior College es una institución que es accesible para todos, independientemente de estatus. Somos una institución que tiene la como misión servir y educar a todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad. Continuare a apoyar esta misión, al igual trabajare con legisladores federales y otros compañeros, con la esperanza de que juntos podamos encontrar una solución para apoyar a estos jóvenes. Ellos son contribuidores importantes de nuestro plantel, nuestra comunidad y nuestro distrito.

Los programas que tenemos establecidos para apoyar a estudiantes indocumentados y a tantos otros estudiantes son comprehensivos y ayudan a cienes de estudiantes cada año a lograr sus metas educacionales. En efecto, las hermanas Herrera quienes fueron presentadas en la portada de esta revista, han tenido éxito y se han beneficiado directamente de programas ofrecidos por la Oficina de Asuntos Multiculturales Estudiantil para estudiantes DACA.

Esto es, sin duda, un tiempo de retos increíbles para nuestros estudiantes y sus familias. Apoyando la inclusión de todos seguirá siendo una prioridad institucional. JJC continua siendo exitoso hoy porque tenemos un sistema de valores fuerte y la creencia consistente en un espíritu de colaboración para sobrellevar estos retos.

Lo que se mantiene constante, es como nuestros empleados, donantes y amigos representan nuestra misión y visión cada día; estamos comprometidos al aprendizaje de los estudiantes, prosperidad comunitaria, enriquecimiento cultural e inclusión; siempre manteniendo nuestra comunidad y estudiantes al frente y asegurando el éxitos estudiantil.

Sinceramente,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
Presidente



Dear friends and supporters,

The JJC Foundation exists to ensure that students at JJC have every opportunity to thrive, succeed and create positive change in our communities. I am pleased to report that the Foundation has never been in a stronger position to support this vital mission.

Gifts from our alumni, employees, businesses, organizations and friends of the college along with an outstanding Foundation board of directors and my team of advancement professionals have helped the Foundation achieve unprecedented growth during the last decade. Because of you, the market value of the Foundation assets has reached $21 million dollars with $12 million dollars in endowments.

This fall, the Foundation awarded over $600,000 in scholarships to 589 students and increased endowment payouts to 4.8 percent (which is approximately $60,000 additional dollars) to better align with the recent tuition increase. We also saw an important opportunity with the high school merit scholarships that are awarded to all 29 of our district's high schools each year. The Foundation supported an increase in these awards from $2,750 to $3,200. We also awarded $40,000 to JJC Career Services for the internship program and $50,000 in Awards for Innovation and Excellence grants. Awards for Innovation and Excellence grants are internal grants that are awarded by the Foundation as a way to support innovative projects across the campus.

At JJC, our focus is on students. Whether preparing them for a transfer to a four-year institution or training them for jobs within the local community, we help them achieve their goals and realize their dreams. Your donation to the JJC Foundation directly supports the mission of Joliet Junior Collegé. We ask that you make a financial commitment to our students and the college. There is nothing more inspiring than making a difference in someone's educational journey.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Gratefully,
Kristin Mulvey, MSM
Executive Director, JJC Foundation

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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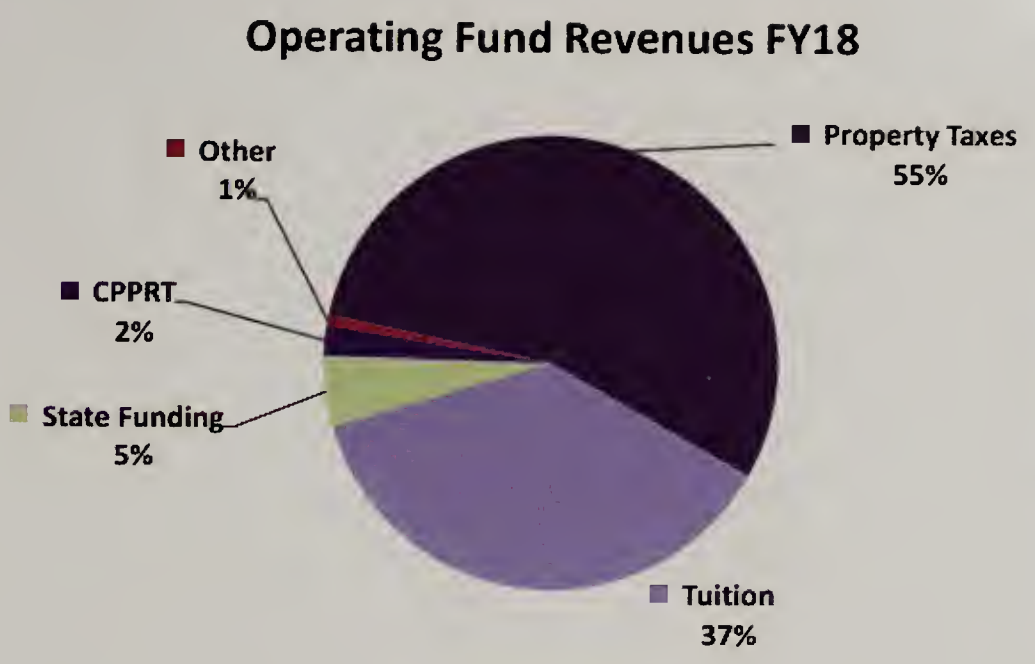
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JJC Board Approves College's 45th Balanced Budget

by Rachel Rose



JJC officials presented a balanced college budget for the 45th year in a row, which was approved by the Board of Trustees at their June 13 meeting.

The total operating budget for FY18 is $ 91.49 million, representing a 2.8 percent increase over the FY17 budget.

"As the state budget crisis continues to negatively impact the people of Illinois and our college district, JJC has been forced to make some difficult decisions throughout our budgeting process, including the increase of tuition for the upcoming academic year," JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell said. "I am truly appreciative of the collaborative and respectful conversations we've had across our campus and with our community regarding these incredibly difficult issues. It is crucial that we not let the quality of our education or services suffer during this turbulent time."

During the planning process, with so much uncertainty regarding state funding, the college balanced its budget with conservative assumptions and responsible spending. The annual budget was developed with comprehensive planning and input from the college community and is based on the 2018-2020 Financial Plan and annual priorities established by the Board of Trustees.

Despite the recent tuition increase, JJC remains cost competitive with other community colleges and is significantly less expensive than public and private universities. JJC's FY18 tuition currently ranks 15th of 38 community colleges across the state, and JJC's cost per credit hour of $144 is near the state average of $141.

In July, the state of Illinois passed a budget that allowed for community colleges to receive 90 percent of the funding they received in FY15, which means that JJC could receive a little over $7 million for FY18. Additionally, the state budget included $10 million for the City Center Campus, which is part of the $25.5 million total originally allocated by the state of Illinois to support that project. JJC officials are working to determine how the passage of the state budget will affect the college's budget.

Additionally, this past fall, the college's financial team was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2017 budget. This marks the 12th year in a row JJC has received the award for its budget, which is only given to government bodies that meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting and achieve standards of excellence in financial reporting.

Highlights of the new budget

A $19 per credit hour increase in tuition to cover funding deficits created by the state budget crisis;

New personnel funds to support student success initiatives and facility maintenance for the opening of the new Event Center and Romeoville expansion;

A required grant fund match for the U.S. Department of Education Title III Grant to support student engagement, persistence and completion programs.

TOGETHER

THREE SISTERS PERSIST AND ACHIEVE AT JJC

by Sam Ritz



(Left to right) Erika, Andrea and Itzamar Herrera are driven by their parents' encouragement and are recognized as student leaders among their peers.

Itzamar, Erika and Andrea Herrera are sisters of different ages, but look so much alike that they often get mistaken for triplets. They share each other's clothes, try out different sports together (right now it's tennis), and volunteer at the Spanish Community Center. They argue over chores, take turns mentoring their youngest sister, Denise, and work at an outdoor flea market through their family's small business, Modas y creations Erika, on the weekends.

But most importantly, the Herrera sisters support and motivate each other, especially when it comes to their future. The sisters, ages 23, 19 and 18 respectively, all attend Joliet Junior College as DACA students (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) – and were told from their parents at a young age that education was essential if they wanted to be successful.

"My parents taught us that it's important to have a good work ethic. They have always been very encouraging when it comes to our education and have told us that education should be our number one priority," Itzamar said.

Their parents, Juan Herrera and Matilde Herrera-Ojeda, chose to immigrate their family to the United States from Oaxaca, Mexico 15 years ago in pursuit of a better life. Having worked hard at minimum wage jobs in the U.S., they wanted more for their daughters. They instilled a drive in them, so that after they graduated from Plainfield Central High School, they would want to continue their education.

"My parents taught us that it's important to have a good work ethic. They have always been very encouraging when it comes to our education and have told us that education should be our number one priority."

– Itzamar Herrera

As the oldest sibling, Itzamar had to learn about college as a blank slate. She gravitated toward JJC not only because it was affordable, but also because she'd heard others talk positively about the community college – especially in regards to its nursing program. Nursing was a natural choice for her because she has always felt inspired by her great-grandmother's profession as a midwife.



Itzamar, Erika and Andrea Herrera with JJC's Latino Student Support Specialist Martha Villegas Miranda.

To prepare for college, Itzamar first met with Latino Student Support Specialist Martha Villegas Miranda, who made the process easy and introduced her to the Latinos Unidos club, a JJC student group that promotes social and cultural awareness, helps Latino students become more involved on campus and encourages its members to become leaders and get involved in their community.

Latinos Unidos is one of the most active and popular clubs on JJC's campus, and is open to all students interested in Latino culture. In 2015, JJC earned the status as a Hispanic Serving Institution, meaning that 25 percent of its student population is Latino.

Although the three sisters are very involved with school, they agreed that out of them all, Erika has embraced JJC student activities the most. From attending leadership seminars on campus to becoming vice president of the International Students Club, Erika said one of the best parts about JJC is that it's inclusive of all students, including those in the LGBTQA community.

JJC was the perfect choice all around for Erika. As an undecided student, she was able to freely explore her interests before choosing a major. First, she experimented with psychology, then she tried phlebotomy, quickly earning a certificate to become a phlebotomy technician.

"I was excited and scared about phlebotomy," Erika admitted. "I have always hated needles. But after I drew blood for the first time, it got easier. I learned a lot during my clinical over the summer at St. Joe's. My family has always been very supportive."

But even though Erika loved working in the hospital, she felt something was missing. When she met with Career Pathway Coach Jill Geers and discussed her interests and strengths, she discovered radiation therapy. After a visit to Roosevelt University, it was confirmed: she finally knew what she wanted to do.

Erika plans to transfer to Roosevelt in 2018. But as an already certified phlebotomy technician, she will also have the opportunity to work in a hospital setting (meaning she'll get to make a technician's salary) as she earns her bachelor's degree.

Andrea, who graduated from high school in May 2017, said choosing JJC was a no-brainer. Not only did she already know the campus pretty well thanks to her older sisters, but she also took dual credit classes through her high school. Those classes transferred in as JJC general education credits this fall, which means she's going to begin classes for her major – computer science – much sooner.

"I feel like I've transitioned well thanks to my dual credit classes," Andrea said. "JJC is just a very comfortable place. I feel at home here."

Since all three are DACA students, the sisters have never been able to apply for financial aid and have had to rely on scholarships. Thanks to the

"JJC is just a very comfortable place. I feel at home here."

– Andrea Herrera

drive their parents instilled in them, they have all received scholarships from JJC, including Andrea, who got a free ride this year thanks to the JJC Foundation Scholarship and the ILACHE 2017 scholarship.

"The resources make it easy for you to achieve your goals at JJC."

– Erika Herrera

The sisters have made it a ritual to attend a scholarship workshop hosted by Villegas Miranda and other staff each spring. These workshops guide students through the process of applying for scholarships, and many walk out having completed a number of applications in only 30 minutes.

"The resources make it so easy for you to achieve your goals here," Erika said.

Each year, JJC receives around $600,000 in donations just for JJC student scholarships. About 30 percent of JJC students receive at least some type of financial aid each year.

"I've had friends that think applying for college is too much work," Andrea added. "Think of it as really investing in your future. If you work hard right now and go to JJC where they make the process easy and smooth, it will definitely be worth it in the end because you'll find other people who are interested in the same things as you, and you'll get to pursue a career you're passionate about."

The JJC Legacy Scholarship



JJC is helping the next generation of students!

Students whose parents, step-parents or legal guardians went to JJC and earned an associate degree are eligible to apply for the Legacy Scholarship. Recipients will be awarded $400 per semester for up to three consecutive semesters. Students applying must be a District 525 resident, have at least a 2.5 GPA and must be attending JJC full-time.

For more information, or to fill out an application, visit **www.jjc.edu/financial-aid/Pages/grants-awards.aspx**.

JJC Brings Commencement Back to Main Campus

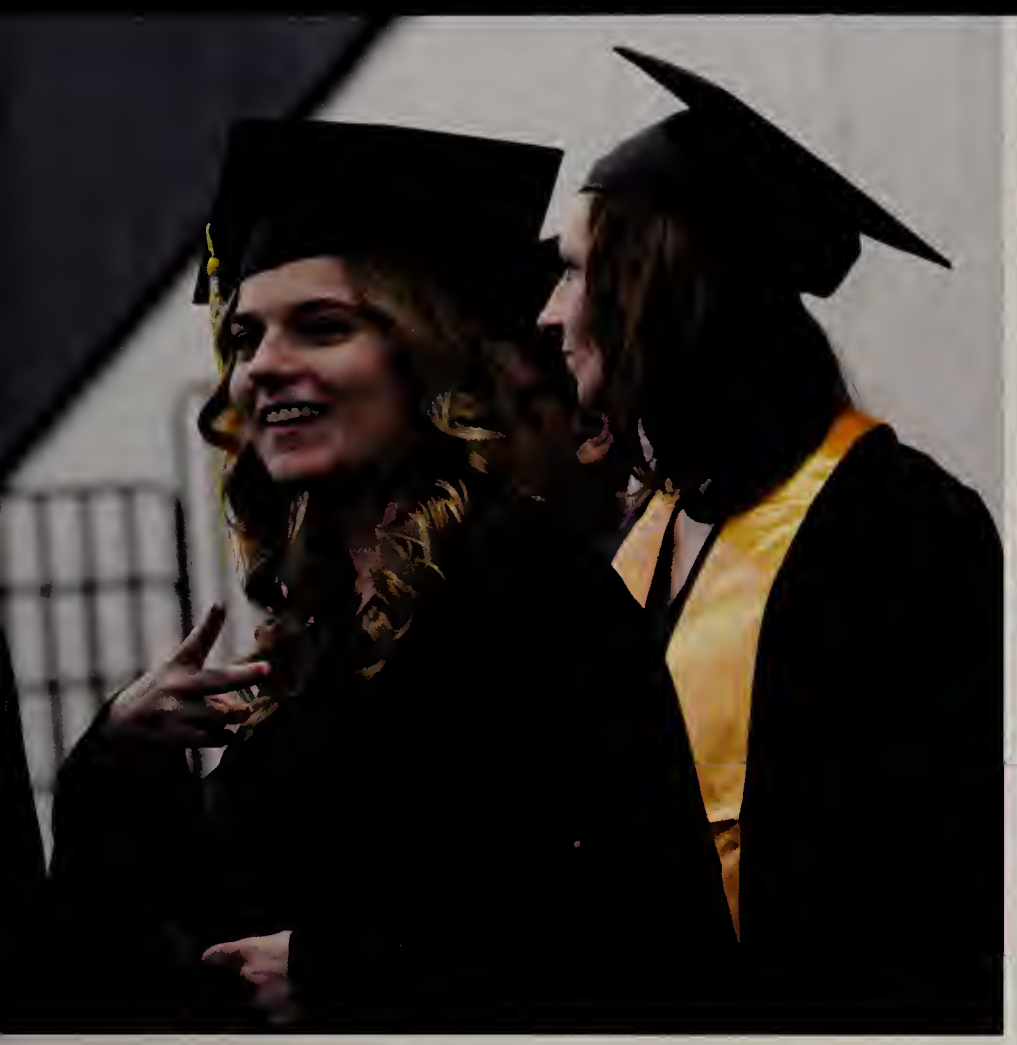
by Jasmine Cooper

Joliet Junior College celebrated its 101st commencement ceremony on May 12 inside the new Event Center on the Main Campus. Approximately 3,200 family, friends, faculty, and staff, gathered to witness graduates receive their associate degrees and certificates. The ceremony was held at the Lewis University Fieldhouse over the last seven years due to space constraints on campus. The May ceremony was the first major event in the new Event Center. More than 530 graduates were recognized.



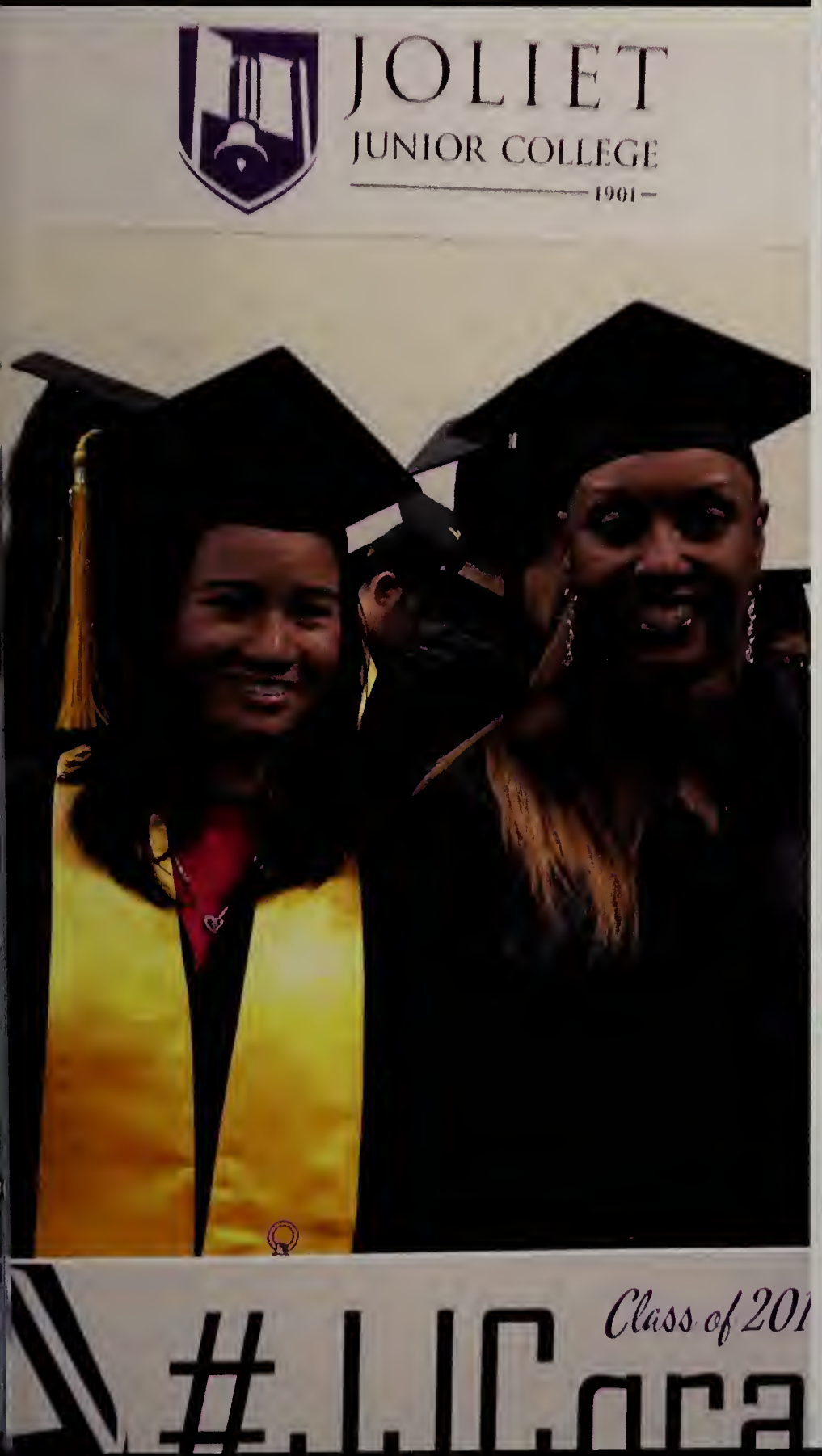
Dr. Mitchell addresses graduates at the 101st Commencement ceremony.

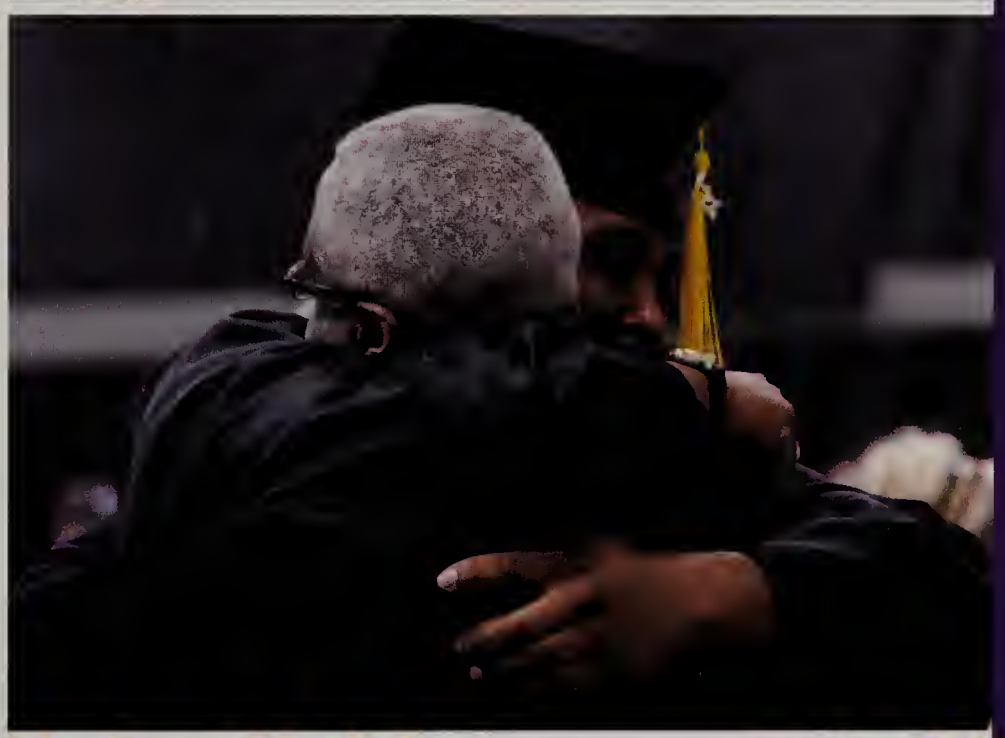
JJC Hosts 101st Commencement in the Event Center

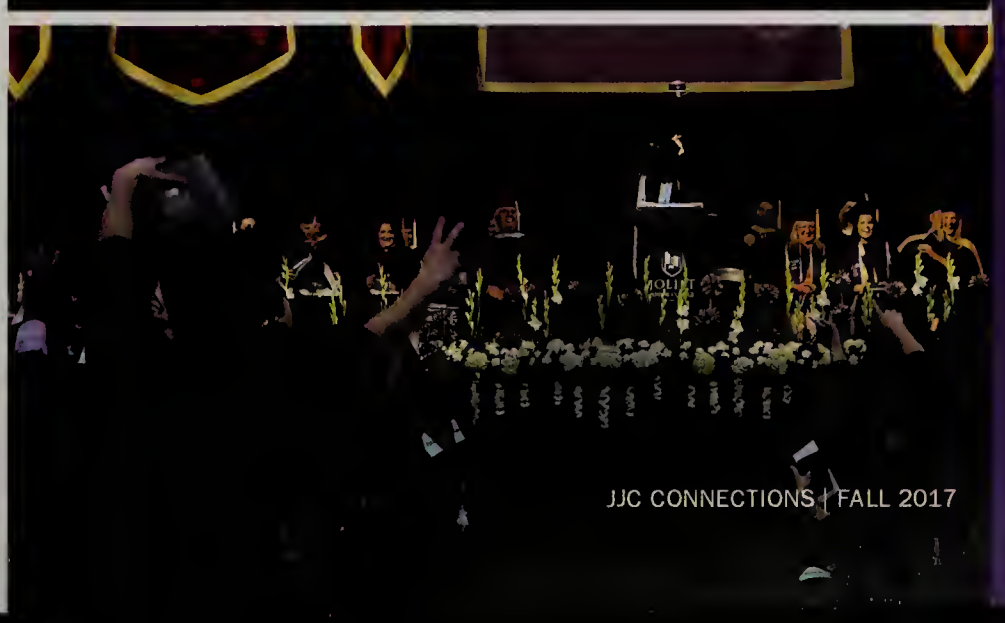




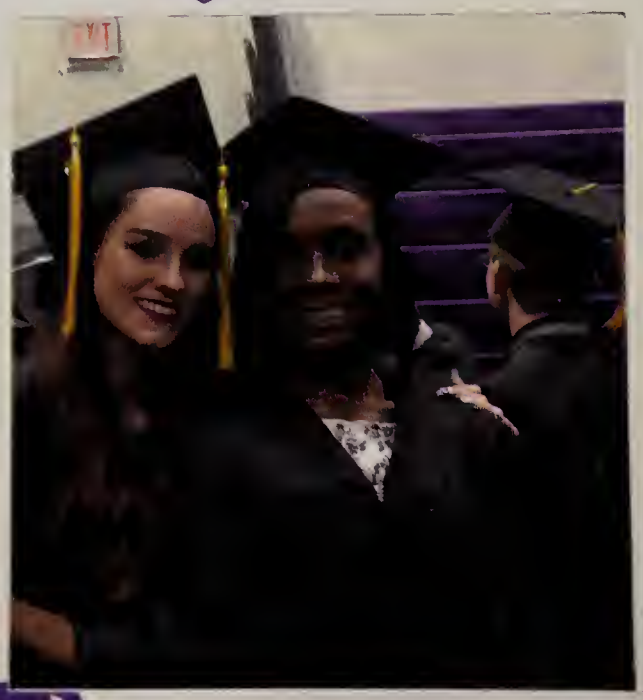








JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

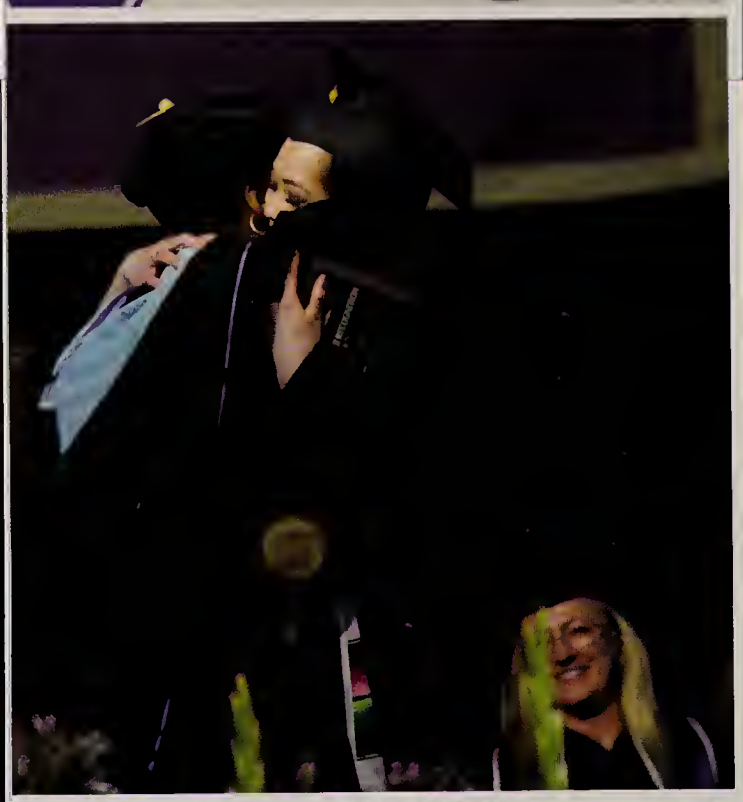


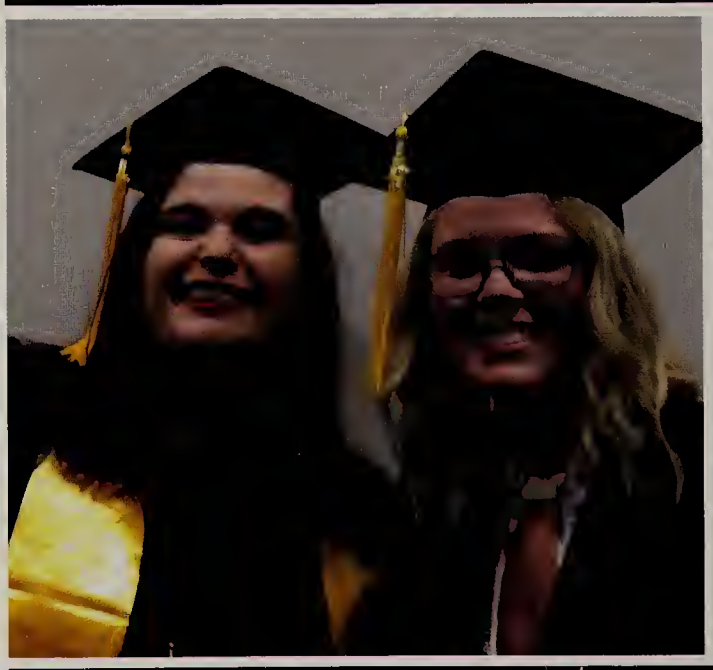


Class of 2017

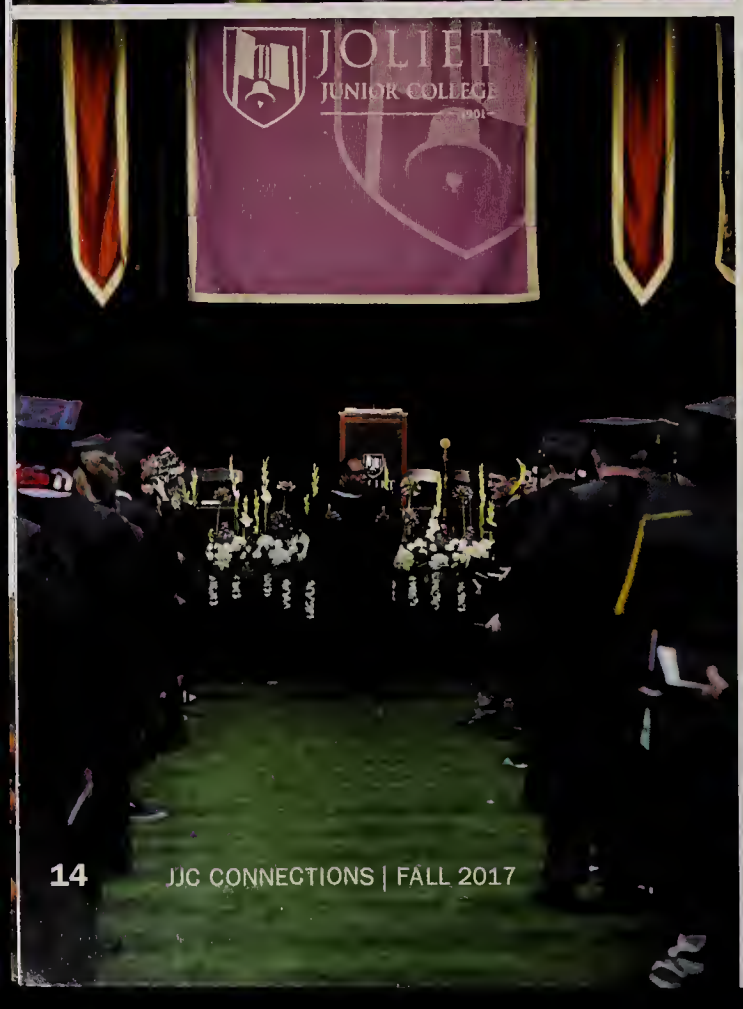
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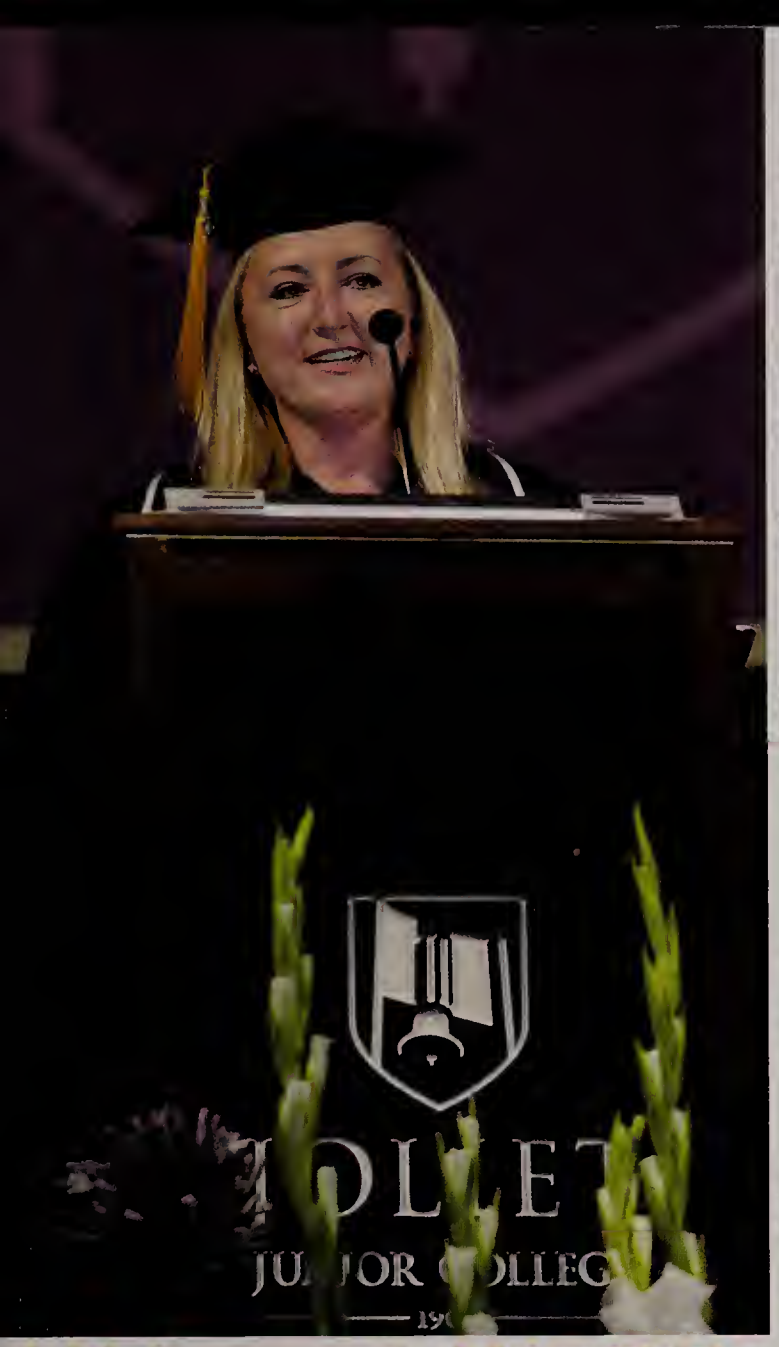










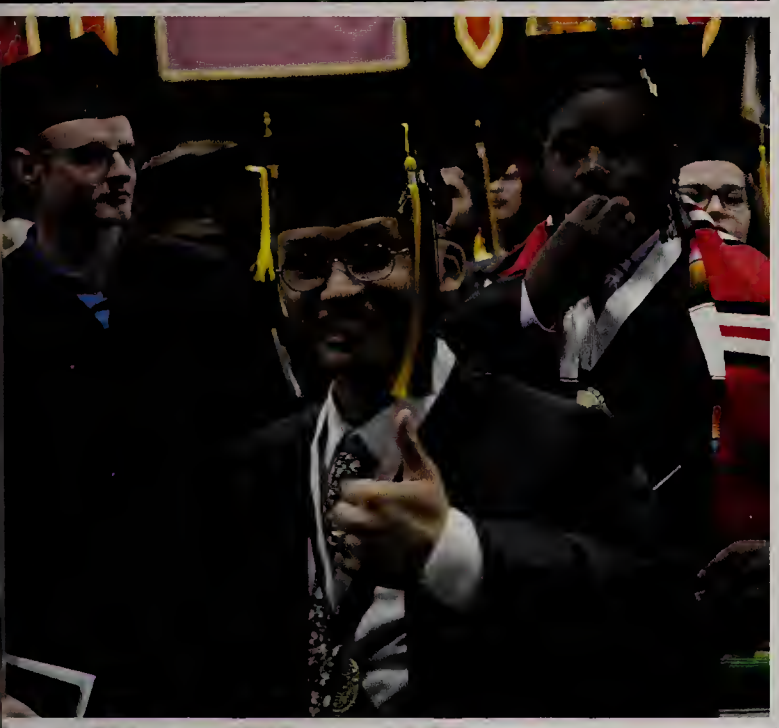


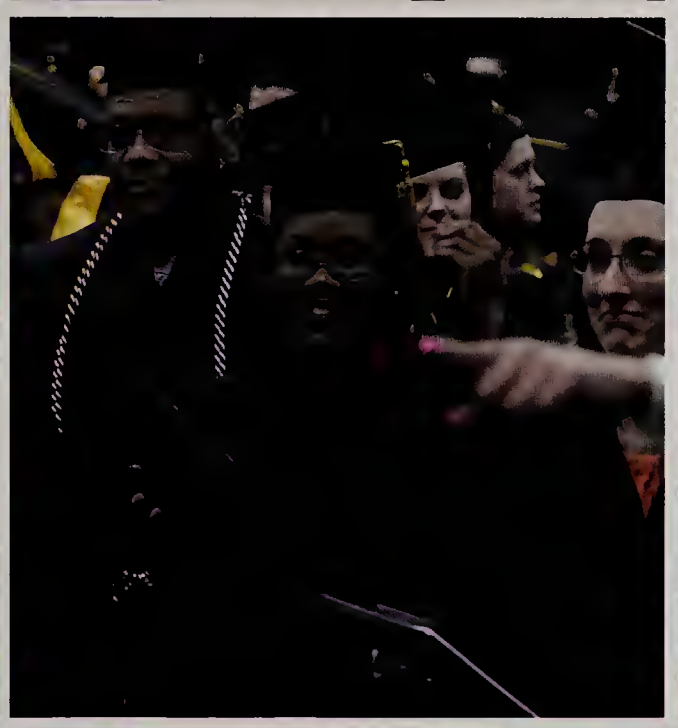


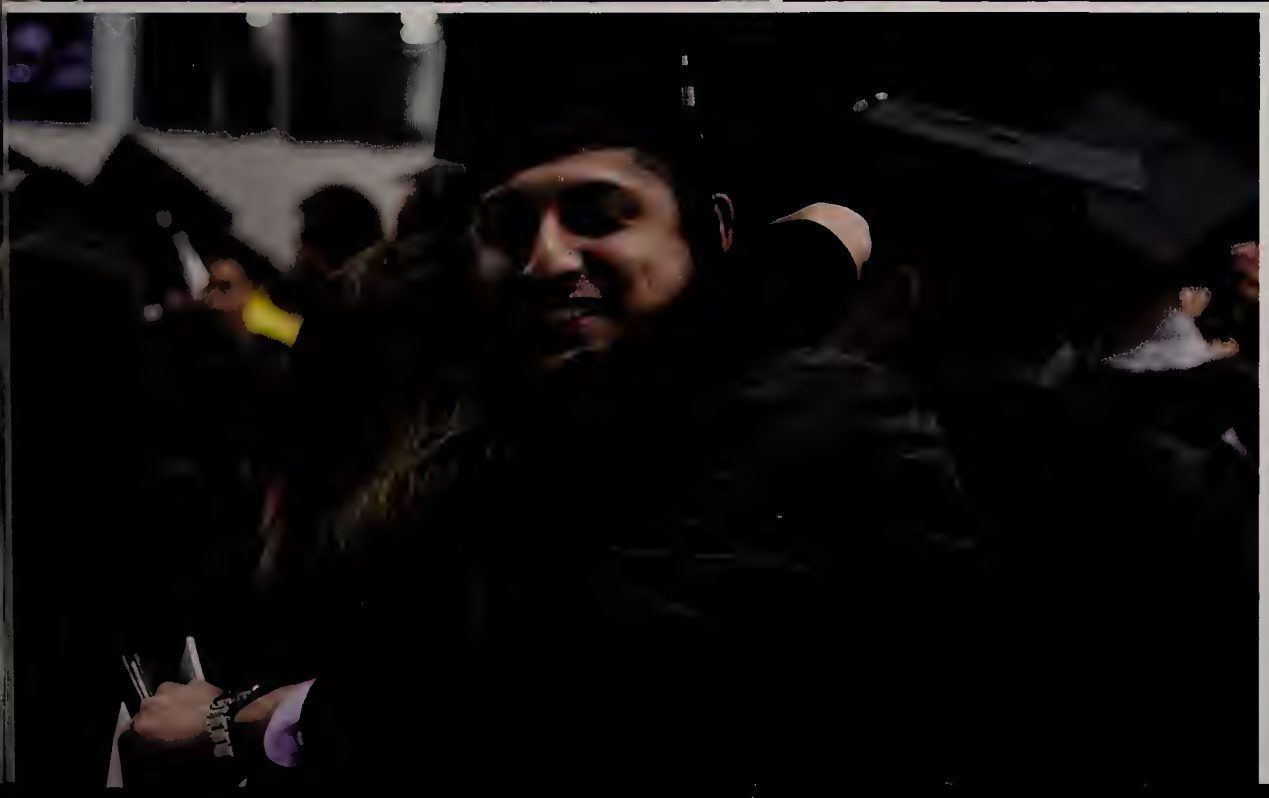



Class of 2017
#JJCgrad











36 Alumni Brunch Celebrates 36 Years, honors four remarkable alumni and faculty

by Kelly Larson



Left to right: JJC Alumni Board President Ericka Williams '08, DAA awardee Dave Westphal '66; SHW awardee William Johnson; JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell '98; DAA awardee Rev. Dr. Lester Brown '98; SHW awardee Joe Milosevich; and JJC Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager Kelly Larson.

More than 130 alumni and friends from all over the country returned to JJC for the 36th annual alumni brunch on June 4. This year's celebration honored two distinguished alumni and inducted two professors into the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame.

"The brunch is an opportunity to honor a group of remarkable individuals and build community," said JJC Alumni Board President Ericka Williams '08.

The 50-year reunion class of 1967 celebrated as did the classes of 1957, 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007.

The *Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award* recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding success in their chosen field and provided humanitarian service to society.



Guests were treated to a gourmet buffet, dining entertainment, and traveled back in time through a history table filled with yearbooks and memorabilia.



2017 Honorees

Rev. Dr. Lester Brown, class of 1998, credits his JJC professors for helping him graduate at the top of his class and inspiring him to continue his education. Retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections with 27 years of service, Rev. Dr. Brown has dedicated his life to serving the Joliet community and has received numerous awards for his community involvement. The former Joliet mayoral candidate is in his tenth year of teaching criminal justice and law enforcement classes at JJC.

Dave Westphal, class of 1966, is an executive in worldwide agribusiness with more than 46 years of diverse management experience. Some of his notable accomplishments include helping to initiate the sale of Cargill's International Seed Business to Monsanto for $1.4 billion and designing and placing over 50 seed conditioning plants in 15 different countries. Since retiring he has worked extensively consulting in Africa working with start-up seed businesses. Just weeks after the alumni brunch, Westphal and his team traveled back to Africa to conduct more research.

Honorees receiving the *Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame* are recognized for their exceptional service to JJC. This year's honorees include:

William Johnson is the senior faculty member at JJC, having taught in the Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department for 49 years. Johnson is also Coordinator of the Agriculture Production/Management and Swine Management programs and is in charge of the internship program for students in those concentrations. Known as "Mr. JJC" and recognized throughout the community, Johnson has been a consistent college donor since 1985, contributing to a number of student funds and endowed scholarships.

Joe Milosevich retired in May 2017 after teaching at JJC for 38 years as a fine arts professor and working as director of the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery. One of Milosevich's greatest accomplishments at JJC was establishing the Permanent Collection of JJC Student Art in 1984. Another was in 2012, when the current art gallery officially opened – a space he designed – in the area that used to be the JJC Bookstore.



Left to right: JJC class of 1957 graduates: Dolores Oram; Sue Zuck; Marcia Metrick; and John Mraz.



Left to right top row – JJC class of 1967 graduates: Marge Fleet; Roy Fleet; bottom row - Rita Carlson; and Mark Teipel.



JJC Presents
STATE OF COLLEGE ADDRESS
To Community Partners

by Kelly Rohder

Dr. Mitchell presented the second annual State of the College address to community members, stakeholders and local legislators on Aug. 10, sharing institutional initiatives, challenges, and progress the college has made over the past year.

"One of the reasons we established this event last year was to create a specific opportunity to share successes, challenges, and strategic initiatives with our external partners," Dr. Mitchell said. "JJC's success is truly dependent on our collaboration with each of you. Your investment and trust in us to deliver diverse, quality educational opportunities to our district is why we are still here successfully educating our community."

In her presentation, Dr. Mitchell shared her four pillars of success that she unveiled at her inauguration in February, and which she uses as a guide for leading the college: financial stability and a stable budget; academic programming to meet the needs of a diverse society; enrollment, growth, retention and student success; and community, legislative and philanthropic engagement.

Additional highlights Dr. Mitchell covered included:

- JJC has achieved Hispanic Serving Institution status, as granted by the U.S. Department of Education. This means that more than 25 percent of the student population is Hispanic and that the college is eligible to receive federal funding for special programs to support the success of this population;
- The college achieved its 45th consecutive balanced budget;
- Key community partnerships that have led to educational training programs such as the Advanced Integrated Maintenance program and Operations Engineering Technology program, both of which provide clear pathways to employment in local industries;
- The JJC Foundation awarded over $513,000 in annual and endowed scholarships last year to support students of all ages and backgrounds amidst state financial turbulence. These scholarships are supported by both individuals and organizations;
- JJC's sonography program received its accreditation in 2016; there are only five in the state of Illinois;
- JJC's agriculture program won the 2017 Outstanding Postsecondary Program Award from the National Association of Agricultural Education; and
- The college was up 7.8 percent in new students attending JJC from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016.

Dr. Mitchell closed by sharing with the college's external partners an idea she has been sharing with faculty, staff and students since she became president: "To grow JJC, we must invest in JJC," she said. "While most of higher ed is in survival mode, Joliet Junior College is truly poised for growth."

To see the State of the College address, visit JJC's YouTube channel at:
www.youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege



The second annual State of the College brought together around 100 community partners in the U-Building on the Main Campus.



Faculty member Dan Warning talks with Luann DiMonte. Both are JJC Alumni board members.



Dr. Mitchell greets Mark Schneidewind, manager of the Will County Farm Bureau.



Dr. Mitchell connects with Rob Galick, vice president of administrative services and Dominick Demonica, principal at Demonica Kemper Architects.

‘Time to Leave the Cradle’:

Joliet Junior College Became a Class I District & Separated from Joliet Township High School Fifty Years Ago

by Amy Chellino



When students first arrived for class at Joliet Junior College’s temporary buildings on Sept. 22, 1969, they were met with a traffic jam on Houbolt Road with 2,000 cars attempting to make it to class on time. For Professor of Agriculture Bill Johnson, the one word that comes to mind when recalling that first day is, “Mud!”

“The first day of classes it was cold and raining very hard...Houbolt was a gravel road over soil,” Johnson recalls. Former Assistant to the Dean, Walter Zaida, says there was just no time for the city to expand the road before classes started.

Once on the temporary campus, students found cardboard walkways, minimal furniture and a few buildings without plumbing. Johnson cheerfully adds that the experience was like an “adventure” for students and faculty and although the conditions were not always ideal, it was “still an improvement” for the college to finally have its own space. These sentiments are echoed in an article from *the Blazer* from April 25, 1969 that shared, “More important to students, however, the entire campus will belong to the students and the College.”

“Students and faculty were happier to be out on their own,” Zaida recalls. And in many cases, he described how the temporary buildings were even better than sharing space at the high school which was cramped and inflexible.

After inhabiting limited space at Joliet Central High School since 1901, Joliet Junior College became a Class I district on Feb. 18, 1967 and separated from the high school becoming Illinois Junior College District 525. “A statewide system of community college districts was proposed as the next Illinois experiment in higher education,” Zaida explains. “Locally, then, the decision was made that we can do this...It was time to leave the cradle.”

A College Board of Trustees was established and determining how this division would happen with shared faculty, classroom space, and college funding were at the center of decision making. A *Blazer* article from Sept. 5, 1967 explained, “administration, teachers, business office and students must be untangled after some 65 years of working as one.” An architectural firm was hired to develop the 368-acre Richards farm on Airport Road (now Houbolt). This location was selected for the close proximity to the highways and accessibility to students. Where some saw only a cornfield, aesthetic elements of

the land which included a small lake inspired the initial design of an enclosed bridge with glass walls that would become the centerpiece of the campus.

District 525 voted on a referendum to fund the new campus. Advertised as "The Education Bargain of a Lifetime," the referendum was nearly unanimously approved on March 30, 1968.

Moving to an interim campus during the construction process was imperative to accommodate the continued growth of Joliet Junior College and provide a physical break from the high school. A temporary campus of 17 prefabricated buildings similar to military barracks were constructed on the land of the college's new home. Each building was named after an existing community college and departments were given corresponding names. For example, the Agriculture Department was in the Prairie State building and English was in the Spoon River building referencing the classic literature text *A Spoon River Anthology*.

Adjacent to the temporary campus, ground was broken for the permanent campus on Nov. 15, 1970. The construction brought an enthusiasm to everyone at the college. A dedication ceremony for Phase I happened on Oct. 22, 1972. The Agriculture Department was one of the first to move to the new campus.

"There was more space than we could imagine," Johnson remembers.

At the heart of this endeavor is an appreciation for adventure, progress and learning. The lasting vitality of Joliet Junior College is due to the "amazing community support" explains Johnson. The loyalty and dedication of the community has defined Joliet Junior College as a forward thinking center for education, enrichment and opportunity.

Zaida echoes this sentiment. "Joliet and the surrounding areas had pride in education and were the builders of education," he says. "There was a climate of respect for the education of youth and hiring strong instructors and supporting them."

As a student, professor, administrator, alumni or citizen, you are a part of the Joliet Junior College legacy that began in 1901. Each day as students walk through the doors of JJC's campuses, pioneering spirits are uplifted and the quest for knowledge and opportunity continues.


The Blazer

Vol. 48, No. 7 JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE, JOLIET, ILLINOIS April 28, 1969

College Awaits Autumn Move

By Mark Wilson

It's a new day and a new campus for JJC. By September the College will be in a 17-building cluster of interim facilities on its recently purchased site off Airport Road.

The decision to move the College from its present high school quarters came earlier this month. The Board approved the plan to construct temporary facilities to provide needed space for expanding programs and enrollments.

Necessary In Future

Miss Susan Wood, administrative assistant, said "the campus that will be completed by 1971 will only facilitate 3500 stu-

The interim campus storied once left will include buildings 101, athletic fields 1345, and parking 101. Phase I-A, planned for 1971, is shown south of pond.


GROUND BREAKING

WE DIG IT: Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees members turn over the future at the November 15th ground breaking ceremony.







Remember that first day in September? Total and mass confusion for all.



Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
ph: (815) 280-2344

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

With the opening of the Romeoville Campus Expansion in August, JJC has completed its three major outstanding construction projects from the 2008 Master Plan and the 2013 Master Plan Update.

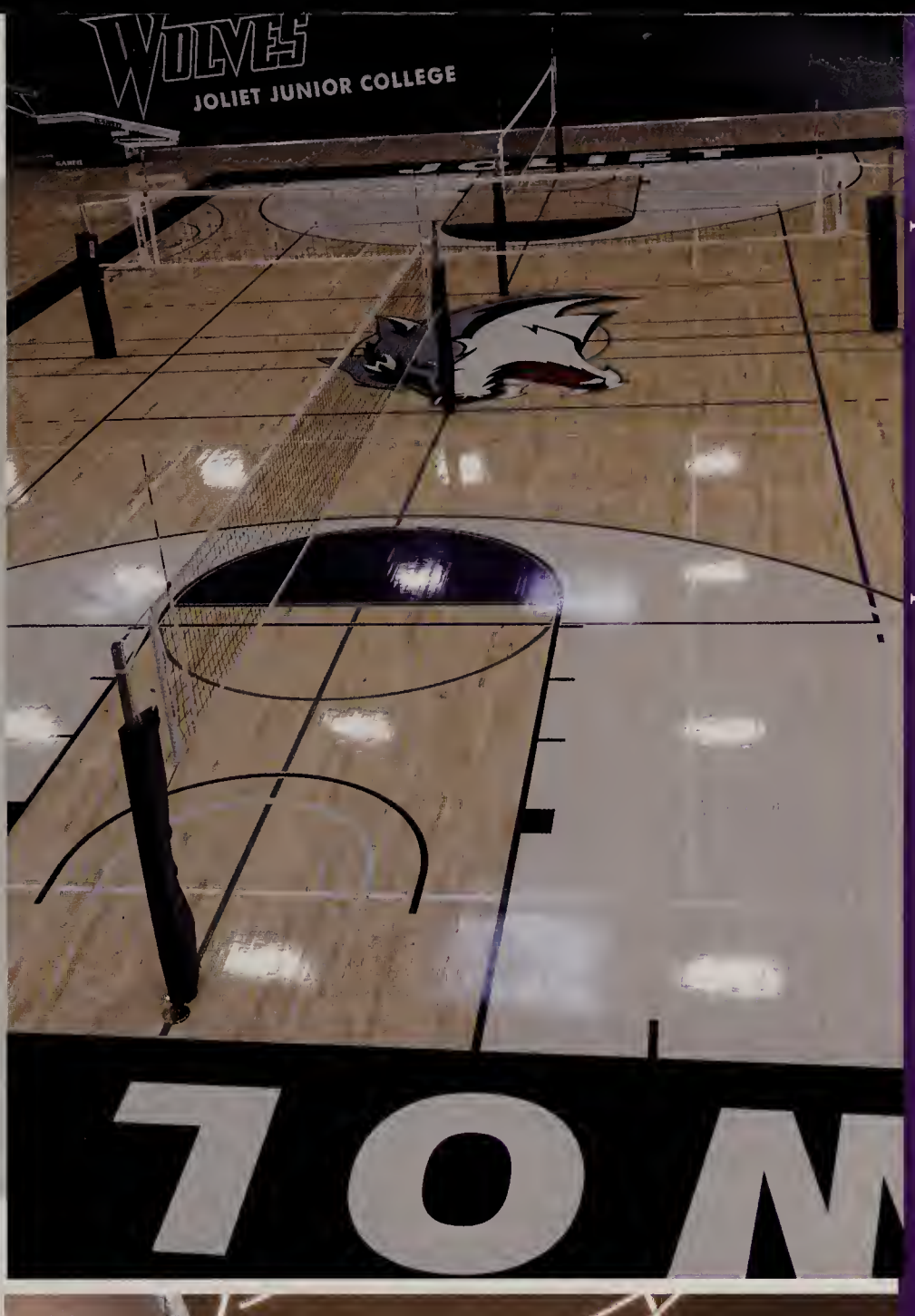


City Center Campus

The City Center Campus in downtown Joliet opened for classes in January 2017, and a grand opening celebration was held on April 11. The six-story, 96,000 square-foot building is the new home of Culinary Arts, Workforce Development and Adult Education, replacing the former hotel that the college occupied beginning in 1980. The old hotel building was demolished in May. Additionally, the Renaissance Center for banquet and event operation underwent extensive renovation and has reopened for operation by a third-party vendor, Premier Events and Banquets.

Event Center

The Event Center, on the southwest side of Main Campus, was completed in the spring 2017 semester. The 85,223 square-foot facility features a fitness center for student athletes, two basketball courts, configuration options for competition basketball and volleyball tournaments, batting cages, bleachers and seating (to accommodate both athletic competitions and graduation ceremonies), athletic staff office space and a presentation room. In May, the college hosted its annual graduation at the Event Center, marking the first time JJC has been able to accommodate graduation on Main Campus in seven years. A grand opening celebration for the Event Center was held on Sept. 12.

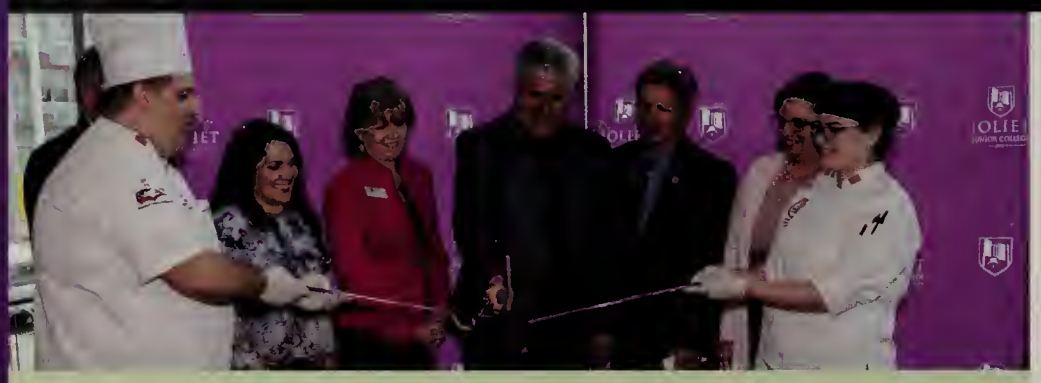


Romeoville Expansion

The new addition to the Romeoville Campus marks the first major construction there since the campus opened in 1993. The 50,028 square-foot new building, which opened for fall 2017 classes in August, includes space for: enrollment services, counseling, financial aid, testing and tutoring, a bookstore, cafeteria, science laboratories, classrooms and offices. With new and expanded course offerings, students can now complete a full associate of science (A.S.) degree (a transfer degree), entirely at the Romeoville Campus without coming to Main Campus. Additionally, the college completed renovations on the 24-year-old original campus building. A grand opening celebration for the Romeoville Expansion was held on Oct. 10.



News Briefs



Chef Andy Chlebana, Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich, Trustee Alicia Morales, Dr. Mitchell, Trustee Andy Mihelich, Trustee Mike O'Connell, Trustee Maureen Broderick, and Rosie Cowell, a 2015 culinary arts alumna.

JJC Celebrates the Opening of City Center Campus

by Rachel Rose

Approximately 175 people attended Joliet Junior College's grand opening for its new City Center Campus on April 11, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony, tours of the new space, and refreshments made by culinary arts students.

Remarks were given by JJC Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich, JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell, Joliet Mayor Bob O'Dekirk, Dominick Demonica of Demonica Kemper Architects, and Rosie Cowell, a 2015 culinary arts alumna.

"We could not have done this without the support of our partners at the city, county and state levels—so we thank them for their belief in us and their ultimate investment in the education of our community,"

Dr. Mitchell said. "We also owe our gratitude to the citizens within our district that supported our 2008 referendum. Partial funds from that referendum supported this project and as you'll see today when you tour the campus those dollars were invested wisely in classrooms, learning labs, student support areas, and community gathering spaces."

Designed by Demonica Kemper Architects, the six-story, 96,000 square-foot building in downtown Joliet houses the college's workforce development, GED/ESL training, adult education and culinary arts, all programs that have a direct impact on improving employment opportunities for JJC students and community members.

In addition to centralizing the culinary arts program, allowing growth for additional student support services, and modernized facilities for the adult education and workforce development programs, the new campus offers two new restaurants which are open the public: Thrive on the first floor, and Saveur, located on the second floor.

JJC Receives Salute to Service Honor from JTHS

by Jasmine Cooper

Joliet Junior College was honored as a Salute to Service award recipient, receiving a medallion from Joliet Township High School District 204 on May 2 at the Jacob Henry Mansion in downtown Joliet. The award recognizes the outstanding partnership between District 204 and the college.

At the event, JTHS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl McCarthy presented the Superintendent's Medallion to Joliet Junior College for the support services it offers to JTHS students, which include dual credit courses – classes that count as college credit but students can take in high school, saving them both time and money.

"I truly believe our relationship with JTHS is stronger than ever," said JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell. "District 204 continues to be a dedicated collaborator in our collective mission: to positively impact our community through access to education."

In addition to providing students with an affordable education, JJC and JTHS have also worked together on the Latino Empowerment Conference, the African American Teen Summit, the Advanced Integrated Maintenance (AIM) program for students interested in technical careers, the nursing assistant program, and the Educational Talent Search program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education.



Dr. Mitchell, along with many JJC faculty and staff, accepted the Salute to Service award on May 2 on behalf of the college.



John H. Weitendorf, Jr. shares a laugh with friends and family at the 10th Anniversary Event.

Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center 10th Anniversary Event Raises Over $25,000

by Amanda Quinn

The Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center 10th Anniversary Event, held on March 4, raised over $25,000 for the agriculture center's programming and equipment needs. Over 400 alumni and friends attended the celebratory pig roast dinner, complete with line dancing, music by Hillbilly Rockstarz, a donut truck, and live and silent auctions.

"The generosity of the Weitendorf family in funding this amazing facility 10 years ago has had a significant impact on the education and training we have been able to provide agriculture students for the past decade," said Kristi Mulvey, executive director of the JJC foundation. "Thanks to the many alumni, friends, and community partners who helped us celebrate this milestone for the facility and the agriculture program."

The center is named after John H. Weitendorf, Sr., a 1942 JJC alum who donated $2.2 million and the 32-acre site to build the facility. Weitendorf, Sr., who worked as a realtor for most of his life, passed away in September 2011.

10th Anniversary Event Sponsors

RAINMAKER
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A special thank you to the many alumni and friends who donated items to our live and silent auctions.



Board Welcomes New Members, Incumbents Following April Election

by Rachel Rose

The April 4 consolidated election resulted in one new trustee and three incumbents to fill two two-year terms and two six-year terms on the JJC Board of Trustees.

Following formal confirmation of the election results, incumbents Daniel O'Connell and Alicia Morales were confirmed as winners for the two six-year terms and Jake Mahalik and Susan Marie Klen were confirmed as winners for the two two-year terms at the Board of Trustees May 1 meeting.

Sadly, since Klen passed away on March 7, trustees needed to appoint a replacement for her. They voted to appoint incumbent Mike O'Connell, who garnered the most votes behind Klen. Klen previously served on the board from 2009 to 2015.

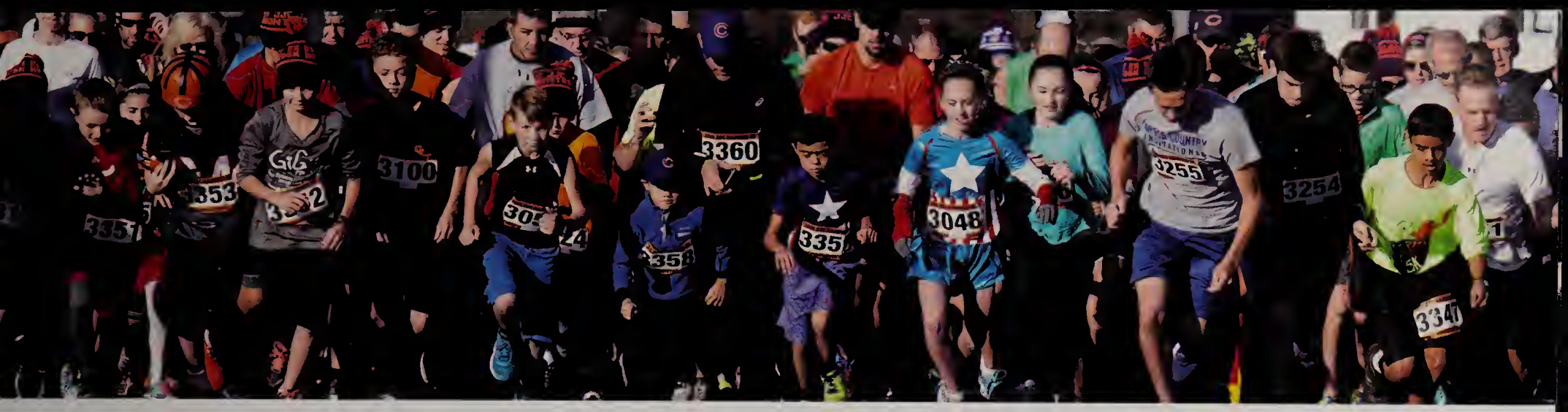
Following are the official vote totals for the winners:

Daniel O'Connell, 24,201 votes
Alicia Morales, 22,074 votes
John (Jake) Mahalik, 26,768 votes
Susan Marie Klen, 26,457 votes
Mike O'Connell, 24,981 votes

Also at the May 1 meeting, the board reorganized and chose current Chairman Bob Wunderlich to continue in that role. Trustee Maureen Broderick was chosen to serve as vice chairwoman, and Trustee Mike O'Connell was chosen to serve as board secretary.

Additionally, Sante Deserio was seated as the 2017-2018 student trustee. The student trustee sits on the JJC Board of Trustees and works closely with Student Government to ensure the thoughts and opinions of students are represented at board meetings. Deserio is a sophomore majoring in political science with plans to pursue law school after completing his undergraduate work in May 2018.

The board also presented a posthumous award honoring the life of former Trustee Klen. Members of Klen's family accepted the award on her behalf, which recognized Klen's widespread volunteer work throughout the district and her lasting impact and legacy at the college.



2017 Foundation Sponsorship Campaign

by Amanda Quinn

Thank you to our business and community partners who have invested in the 2017 JJC Foundation Sponsorship Campaign. These donors committed to sponsoring two of our signature events, the JJC Athletic Golf Outing in July and the JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk in October. Platinum and Gold Sponsors were also recognized at the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center 10th Anniversary Event in March.



Dr. Judy Mitchell addresses participants of the third annual Haunted 5K Run and Walk. In total, the race raised $40,000 for JJC student scholarships, college programs and athletics.

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Testa Produce
Tim Klotz Memorial Fund



Carl Buck (far left) and the Rathbun, Cservenyak & Kozol foursome.



Board Chairman, Bob Wunderlich, and JJC Foundation President, Rosa Angeles, from First Midwest Bank welcomed golfers to the outing.



The Exxon Mobil foursome was comprised of four JJC alumni.



Left to right: JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell '98, nursing professor Dr. Maria Wolfe, Automotive professor Dan Warning '06, JJC alumnus and CEO/founder of Petco Petroleum Corporation Jay Bergman '68, JJC Board of Trustees member Maureen Broderick, and Alumni Relations and Annual Fund Manager Kelly Larson.

JJC Alumnus Jay Bergman Wins State Award

by Kelly Larson

Jay Bergman, a 1968 graduate of Joliet Junior College, was honored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) at its annual banquet in June 2017.

Bergman, philanthropist and founder/CEO of Petco Petroleum Corporation, received the statewide Distinguished Alumnus Award which recognizes the professional and humanitarian accomplishments of individuals who have graduated from Illinois community colleges.

A lifelong resident of Joliet, Bergman put himself through college. At one point, Bergman said he was working more than 50 hours a week as he carried his full load of classes at JJC. He persevered and transferred to Illinois State University (ISU), where he continued to balance his studies with work, and graduated in 1970.

> **"JJC made me understand that there was life beyond the neighborhood and that an education was something to treasure."**
>
> – Jay Bergman, '68

"JJC gave me the knowledge to be successful in business and the desire to encourage others to realize their potential can only be achieved by furthering their education," says Bergman, who served on the JJC Alumni Board as president in the 1980s and was recently recognized as the longest serving member of the ISU Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2017.

"The benefits of attending a community college can be seen in the successful lives of our graduates," said ICCTA executive director Mike Monaghan. "As a first-generation student, Jay Bergman could have easily chosen a simpler path, but his perseverance has made him a community college success story."



Joliet Junior College alumnus and CEO/founder of Petco Petroleum Corporation Jay Bergman '68 is pictured with ICCTA secretary Kathy Spears.

For the past ten years, Bergman has also served at the state level as a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and is a part of the executive committee.

In 2012, Bergman and his wife Lori donated more than $780,000 to the Chicago region of the American red cross. He shares his time as a Board member for the American Red Cross of Chicago and Northern Illinois region; the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo; and the Community Foundation of Will County.

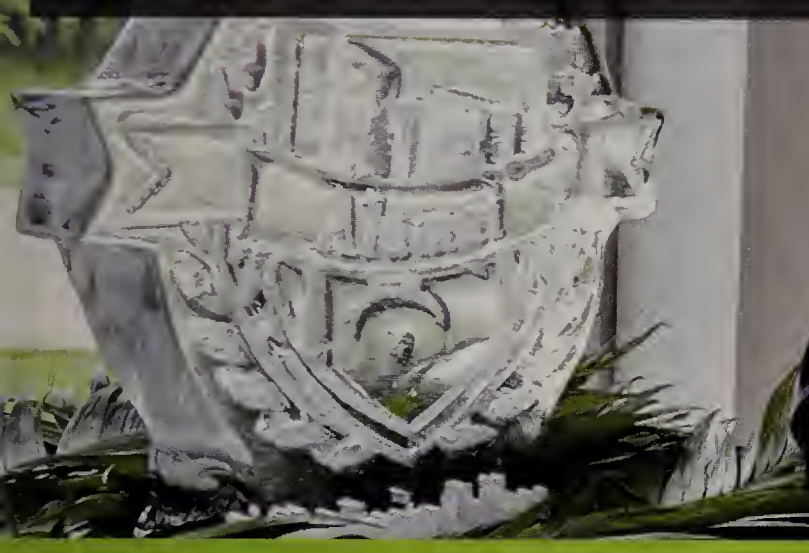
He received an honorary doctorate from Lewis University in 2014 for his service in Illinois higher education.

In addition to Bergman, JJC faculty members Dr. Maria Wolfe (nursing) was nominated for the ICCTA Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member Award and Dan Warning '06 (automotive service technology and alumni board member) was nominated for the ICCTA Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award.

People Then and Now

Joe Milosevich, Retired JJC Fine Arts Professor

by Kelly Larson





Retired JJC fine arts professor and gallery director, Joe Milosevich was recently inducted into the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame for his exceptional service to JJC.



THEN

In 1979, Joe Milosevich began working at Joliet Junior College as a full-time director of the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery and fine arts professor of painting, drawing and design.

He said the best thing about working at JJC was being in a position where he could nourish and witness the creativity expressed by his students, who regularly created award-winning artwork for Illinois community college art competitions.

In his time, he mentored numerous students toward productive careers in art, including several nationally recognized artists. This level of commitment to academia earned him numerous accolades including the title of Outstanding Full-Time Teacher from JJC in 1996.

One of Milosevich's greatest accomplishments at JJC was establishing the Permanent Collection of JJC Student Art in 1984. Another was in 2012, when the current art gallery officially opened – a space he designed – in the area that used to be the JJC Bookstore.

NOW

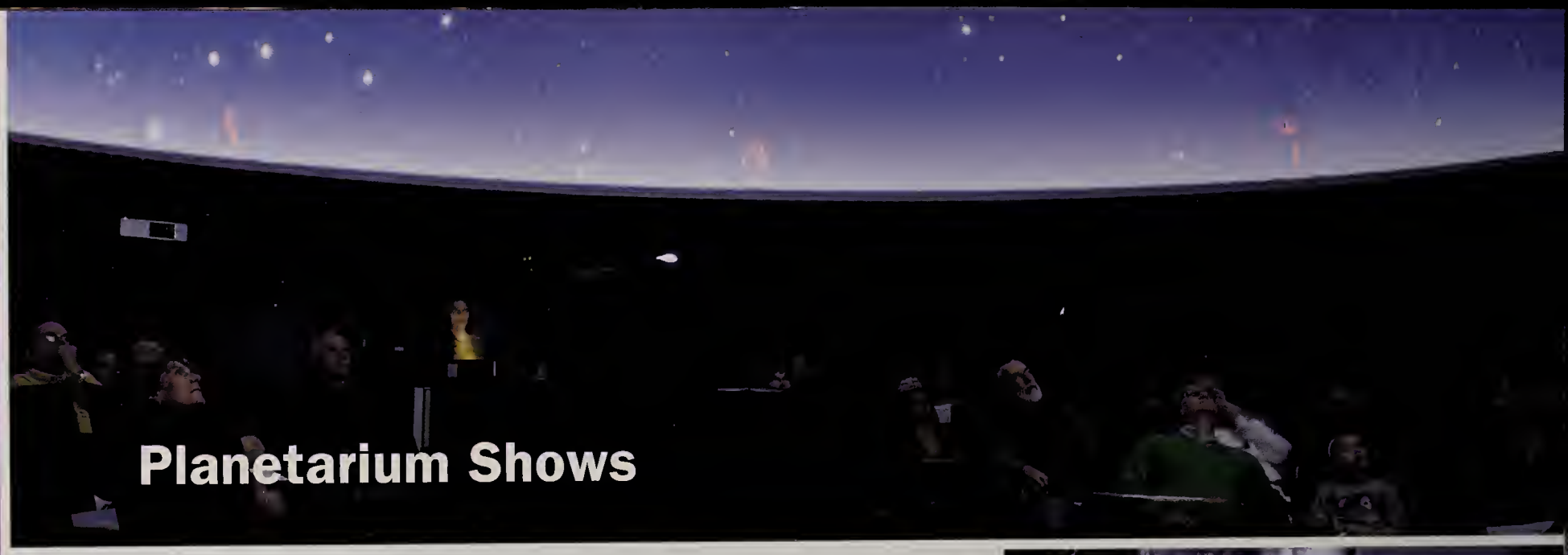


After 38 years of teaching and running the gallery at JJC, Joe Milosevich retired in May 2017. The following month, the professional artist was honored by the JJC Alumni Association at its annual brunch. Milosevich received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award which recognizes an individual who has served JJC in an exceptional way.

Joe has been married to his college sweetheart, Diane, for 40 years. The couple retired at the same time and look forward to traveling and spending more time with their growing family. Their big retirement trip included a tour of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks over the summer. They both love scenery and wildlife – most trips include stops at quilt shops for Diane and antique malls for Joe.

Retirement also means more time for the award winning artist to exhibit his own artwork which has taken him all over the world including Italy, Austria and Mexico.

Joe and Diane reside in Crest Hill, Illinois and have three children and one grandchild.



Planetarium Shows

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21	How to Choose a Telescope
Dec. 5	Story of the Christmas Star
Jan. 2	Solar System
Jan. 16	Dark Matter
Jan. 30	Galileo
Feb. 13	Sunstruck
Feb. 27	Mars
March 13	Two Small Pieces of Glass
March 27	Seasonal Skies
April 10	Humans and Robots in Space
April 24	Orbits: Keep Moving or Die
May 8	Asteroids and Comets
May 22	Black Holes
June 5	Seasonal Skies

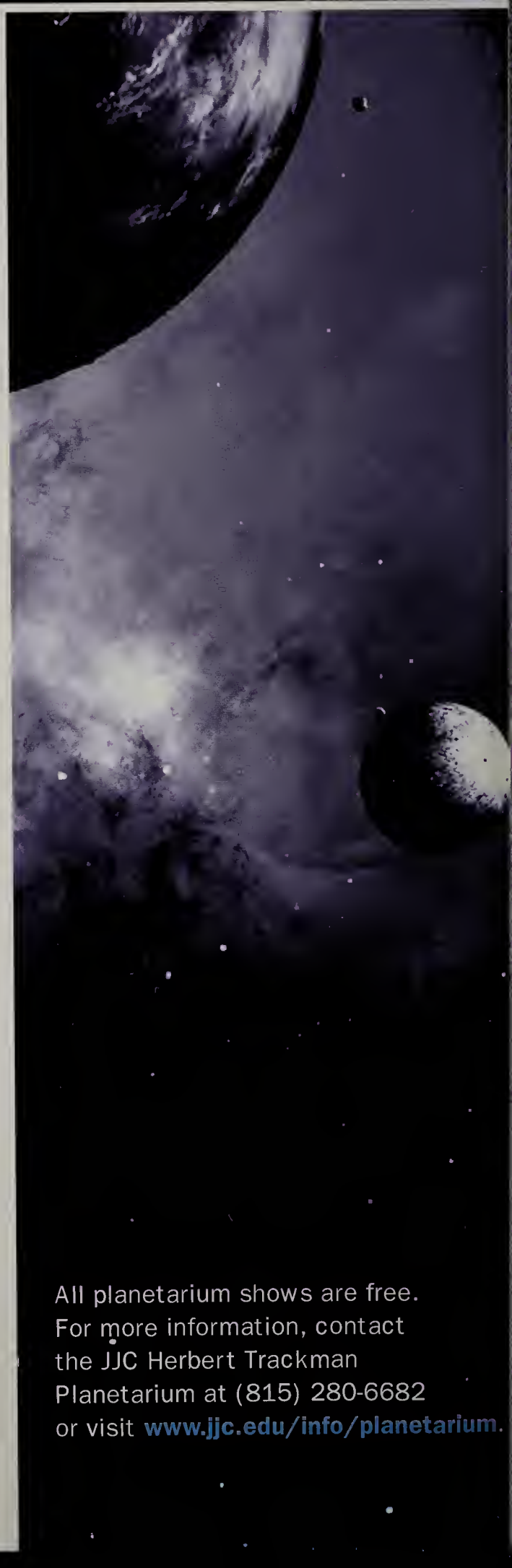
Sunday Holiday Show – 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 17	Story of the Christmas Star

Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14	Story of the Christmas Star
Jan. 11	Seasonal Skies
Jan. 25	Larry Cat in Space*
Feb. 8	Galileo
Feb. 22	The Little Star that Could*
March 8	Seasonal Skies
March 22	Humans and Robots in Space
April 5	Sunstruck
April 19	We Go to the Moon*
May 3	Larry Cat in Space*
May 17	Solar System
May 31	Seasonal Skies
June 14	Dark Matter

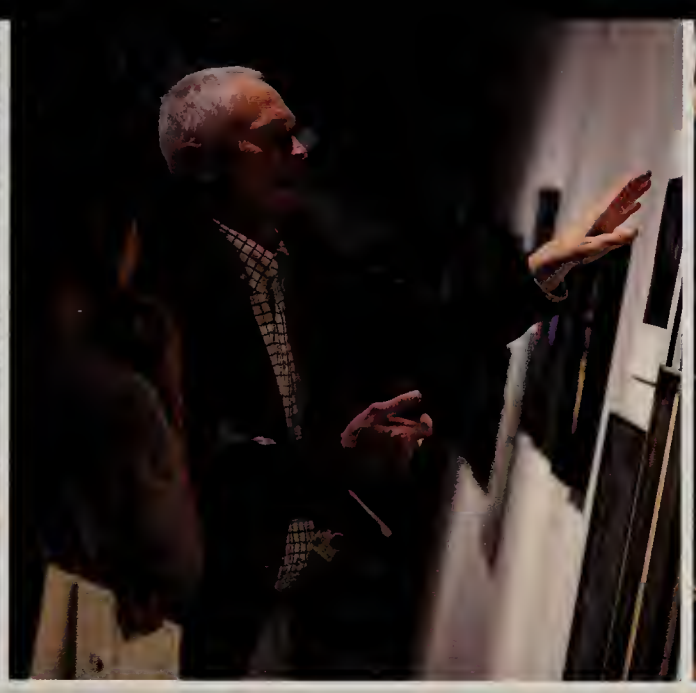
**Shows put on for the very young astronomer*



All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the JJC Herbert Trackman Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium**.



Fine Arts Events





MUSIC

Nov. 29	Student Recital, noon
Dec. 1	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	Community Band Concert, 3 p.m.
Dec. 8	MadriGala, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Carols and Chocolate, 3 p.m.
Dec. 12	Guitar and Percussion Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Student Recital, noon
March 18	Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra (Admission $10), 4 p.m.
March 28	Student Recital, noon
April 25	Student Recital, noon
April 29	Choral Masterworks Concert, 3 p.m.
May 4	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
May 6	Community Band Concert, 3 p.m.
May 7	Honors Recital, 7:30 p.m.
May 8	Guitar and Percussion Concert, 3 p.m.

MUSICA VIVA

Feb. 11	Global Concert & Cuisine: Northern Illinois University Steelband, 3 p.m.
March 11	Faculty Artist Concert: Rich Moore, 3 p.m.
April 8	Guest Artist/Alumni Concert: Mary Elizabeth Bowden, 3 p.m.

THEATRE

March 1-3	Spamalot by Eric Idle and John DuPrez, 7:30 p.m.
March 3-4	Spamalot by Eric Idle and John DuPrez, 2 p.m.
April 12-14 and April 19-20	She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen, 7:30 p.m.
April 14-15 and April 21-22	She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen, 2:00 p.m.

ART

Nov. 6 to Dec. 8	Joliet Junior College Area High School Art Exhibition
Jan. 16 to Feb. 9	Water Street Studios Artists Collective
March 5 to 29	Tim Hurley: Retrospective
April 23 to June 28	Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts**. All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**



Celeste Milton, a **1974** graduate, has worked in hospitals, medical sales, home health and quality improvement as a registered nurse since walking the halls of JJC. Milton spent her first year of classes in temporary buildings or "Quonset huts" as the college began construction on Houbolt Road. "I remember how grand and impressive the first completed building looked; it was exciting to attend classes in the new building."

Milton, a nationally recognized speaker, retired in 2016 from The Joint Commission after serving 14 years. In this role she directed four national projects for improving quality and safety of care for patients in hospitals across the country.

> **"My associate degree in nursing from JJC allowed me to pursue great opportunities in nursing."**
>
> **– Celeste Milton '74; RN, BSN, MPH**

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/info/alumni** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET
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joliet junior college magazine

Virtual Reality Technology

BRINGS JJC CLASSROOMS TO LIFE



SPRING 2018



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901
FOUNDATION

Why Your Gift Matters:

Your Opportunity to Change a Life

With your generous support, the Joliet Junior College Foundation can give students, who are otherwise unable to afford college, a clear pathway to a brighter and promising future.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

$597,306
total amount of scholarships awarded

VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

TOTAL ASSETS **$21.9** Million

ENDOWMENT **$11.7** Million

AWARDS FOR INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

$50,000
in grants the Foundation provided to faculty/staff for innovative projects, programs and equipment

EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK

259
JJC Employees

Donated
$121,844

Source JJC Foundation; Fiscal Year 2017
For more information, visit **jjc.edu/foundation**.

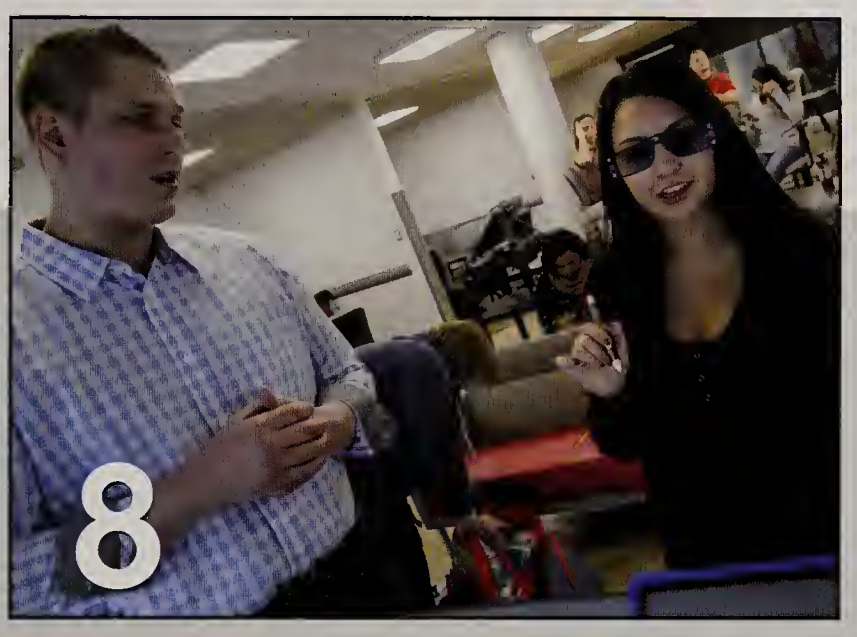
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CONTENTS



STEM Initiatives at JJC

The college is taking a proactive approach to STEM education by developing STEM education outreach opportunities for students and schools across our communities.



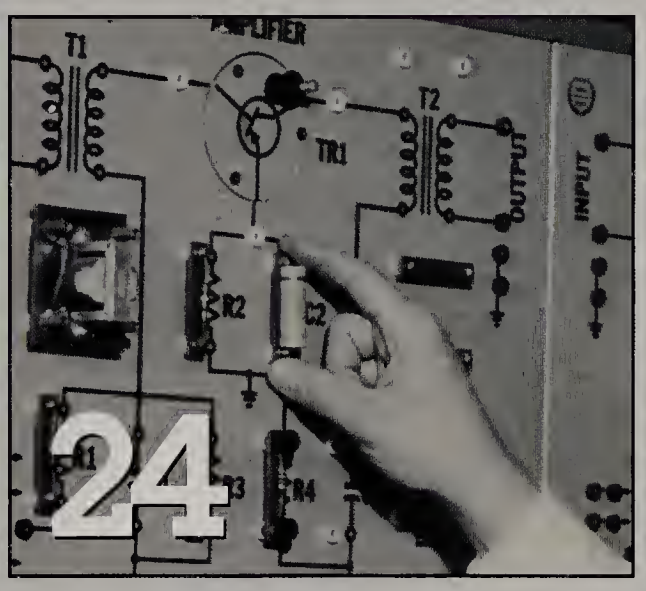
Virtual Reality Technology

In recent months, JJC classrooms have come to life with new technology that mixes augmented and virtual reality for a state-of-the-art teaching aid.



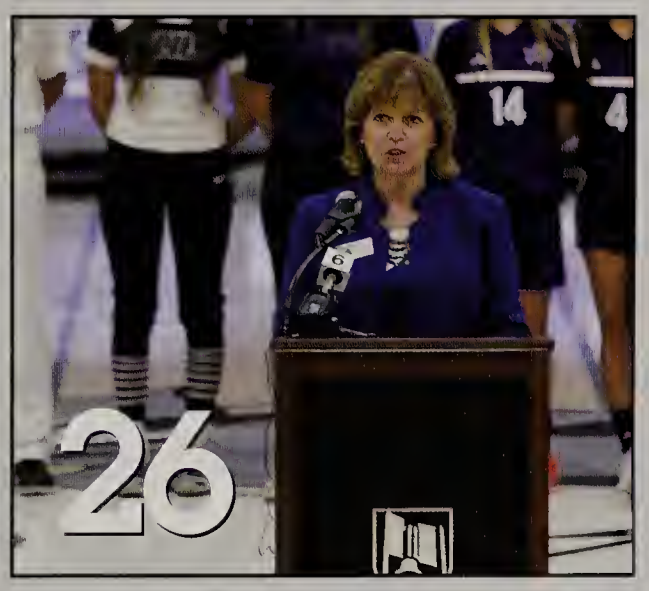
2017 Annual Report

Review of financials from FY 2017 for the college and the JJC Foundation.



Hello Computer

Travel through a 25-year pictorial history of technology from typewriters, keypunches, mainframes, and personal computers at JJC.



Event Center and Romeoville Campus Celebrate Grand Openings

These events marked the completion of the college's last major construction projects from the 2013 Master Plan Update.

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23 People — Then and Now

30 Events

CONNECTIONS



Dear JJC supporters,

A significant part of my energy this year has been devoted to the concept that to grow JJC, we must invest in JJC. At a time when many question the stability of higher education in the state of Illinois, it is my belief that Joliet Junior College is poised for growth. Through judicious planning, conservative budgeting, and the financial, business, and community partnership support of so many, we have truly been able to give our students the innovative, challenging, and quality academic programming and support programming they need to achieve success. Your investments and trust in our mission have contributed to the success we've seen this year.

In this issue, you will read about new technology in our classrooms that allows nursing students to experience 3D views of a beating heart by mixing augmented and virtual reality. This technology, powered by zSpace, was integrated into course-work thanks to support from a JJC Foundation Awards for Innovation and Excellence grant and the Vera Smith Technology Fund.

Our spring issue also traditionally includes the college's annual report and the JJC Foundation's annual report. The strong support of our Foundation Board and our donors make innovation like zSpace technology possible and give our students cutting edge knowledge as they prepare for their careers.

Another way we have grown JJC is through our investments in community partnerships. One of the major priorities in my first year was to meet with mayors across JJC's seven-county district to learn first-hand what their needs are and how the college can support those needs. These conversations have ranged from developing additional GED opportunities, general education opportunities within those communities, and support for municipal cultural events. To date, I've met with 11 mayors in communities that JJC serves and I will continue to invest in those relationships.

A broader initiative is that of the JJC Ambassadors Program, a systematic and coordinated effort to ensure the college is connected with as many local municipalities and local organizations and non-profits as possible, sharing knowledge and information, and working together to create possibility. Currently, nearly 60 JJC employees are embedded in these organizations throughout our district to support mentorship, information sharing, and innovation in education through partnerships.

As I shared with our employees this year, it is critical to remember that community colleges do not have needs. We meet the needs of our students and community. We need to think not what we "can do," but we must build capacity for what we "should do." It is with your investments in JJC that together, we overcome barriers and build the JJC of the future. It is only together that we will succeed.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President

Queridos amigos de JJC,

Una gran parte de mi energía este año ha sido dedicada al concepto de que para hacer crecer a JJC, debemos invertir en JJC. En un tiempo donde muchos cuestionan la estabilidad de la educación superior en el estado de Illinois, es mi creer que Joliet Junior College esta postrada para crecer. Por medio de planeación juiciosa, presupuestos conservadores, y el apoyo financiero, de negocios, y colaboraciones comunitarias, hemos verdaderamente podido ofrecer a nuestros estudiantes programas académicos innovadores, desafiantes, y de calidad al igual que apoyo para lograr el éxito. Su inversión y confianza en nuestra misión han contribuido al éxito que hemos obtenido este año.

En esta edición, leerá acerca de la nueva tecnología en nuestros salones, la cual permite a nuestros estudiantes de enfermería experimentar con una mezcla de métodos de realidad aumentada y virtual al poder mirar un corazón latiente en tres dimensiones. Esta tecnología, motorizada por zSpace, fue integrada al trabajo de curso gracias al apoyo financiero de la Fundación de JJC por medio del Programa de Innovación y Excelencia y por una beca del Fondo de Tecnología Vera Smith.

Nuestra edición de primavera tradicionalmente incluye el reporte anual de la institución y de la Fundación de JJC. El gran apoyo de la mesa directiva de la Fundación y de donantes hace posible la tecnología como zSpace y da a nuestros estudiantes un conocimiento innovador mientras se preparan para sus carreras.

Otra manera en la que hemos crecido en JJC es por medio de nuestras inversiones en colaboraciones comunitarias. Una de las prioridades más grandes durante mi primer año fue la de reunirme con alcaldes a través del distrito de JJC, el cual es compuesto por siete condados, para aprender de primera mano cuáles son sus necesidades y como el colegio puede apoyarles en esas necesidades. Estas conversaciones han sido desde desarrollar oportunidades adicionales de GED (diplomado de secundaria), oportunidades de educación general dentro de esas comunidades, y apoyo para eventos culturales en los municipios. Hasta hoy, me eh reunido con 11 alcaldes en comunidades a las que sirve JJC y continuare a invertir en esas relaciones.

Una iniciativa más extensa es el Programa de Embajadores de JJC, un esfuerzo sistemático y coordinado para asegurar que el colegio esté conectado con tantas organizaciones sin fines de lucro dentro de los municipios locales como nos sea posible, compartiendo sabiduría e información, y trabajando juntos para crear posibilidades. Actualmente, casi 60 empleados de JJC están envueltos en estas organizaciones a través del distrito para apoyar por medio de tutoría, compartiendo información, e innovación en la educación por medio de estas colaboraciones.

Como compartí con nuestros empleados este año, es crítico el recordar que los colegios comunitarios no tenemos necesidades. Nosotros satisfacemos las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes y comunidad. Debemos pensar no en que "podemos hacer," sino en cómo podemos aumentar la capacidad para poder lograr lo que "debemos hacer." Es con su inversión en JJC que juntos, podremos sobre pasar barreras y construir el JJC del futuro. Es solo unidos que podremos tener éxito.

Sinceramente,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
Presidente



Dear friends,

The JJC Foundation was established 45 years ago with the mission of supporting the college with funds for scholarships, educational programs, and equipment. We have made a significant impact over the years, bringing the Foundation assets to over $23 million, with $12 million in endowments to date.

I am pleased to share that 2017 was a record year for the Foundation. As you will see in our Annual Report, contributions were $1,159,737, a 36 percent increase over the previous year. Our alumni gave $219,500, which is a 66 percent increase. During our annual Employee Giving Campaign, employees contributed $121,844. JJC employees understand the importance of student success and the financial support it takes to get there. Employees are able to earmark their gifts to specific scholarships or departmental funds. They give because they know their gift will directly benefit the students they interact with on a daily basis.

In support of the college's Core Value of **Innovation**, the Foundation Board renamed the Awards for Excellence Fund to Awards for Innovation and Excellence. Each year the Foundation budgets $50,000 for this internal grant program, which supports new ideas by our amazing faculty and staff. A $25,000 gift was given to the college for a new zSpace Virtual/Augmented Reality Lab, which you can read about in this magazine.

Thank you to those of you that continue to support the work of the JJC Foundation. You help our community by providing a valuable education to thousands and keeping the institution strong with cutting edge equipment.

Thanks,

Kristin Mulvey, MSM
Executive Director, JJC Foundation
Executive Director, Institutional Advancement

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Information is subject to change.

A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Resource Development.

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JJC Taking the Lead with New STEM Initiatives

By Kate Coughlin



Students working together in a group to assemble a STEM vehicle.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) touch every aspect of our lives. Joliet Junior College is taking a proactive approach to STEM education by developing STEM education outreach opportunities for students and schools in Joliet District 525. Through a collaboration of several JJC departments, and local and national funders, JJC is establishing a pathway to STEM careers through several new STEM initiatives.

"The goal of these initiatives at JJC is to increase student interest in STEM at a young age, and then provide continuous inspiration and motivation to carry students through to careers in a STEM field," explains Dr. Andrew Morrison, professor of natural sciences at JJC, and lead for two of the college's new STEM initiatives.

JJC will partner with Constellation, an Exelon Company, for a second year to offer the free program, Girls Leading the Charge. This afterschool program held throughout the year teaches middle schools girls about energy and engineering as they build solar power cars from kits. In addition to learning about electricity, energy conservation, and design, students also have the chance to compete in a race to showcase their cars in a final project. Several parents of eighth-grade girls who participated in the workshop last year reported that their daughters were inspired to enroll in additional STEM courses in high school. The program anticipates working with 230 girls and 20 teachers in the coming year.

Building off the success of the Constellation - Girls Leading the Charge project, JJC launched the STEM Ambassador initiative, a collaboration between JJC's Natural Sciences Department, Corporate and Community Services Department, and the JJC Honors Program. Through donations from the Ecolab Foundation and the Dart Foundation, current JJC honors students will bring several day-long, activity-based workshops into elementary school students in District 525. The thematic workshops will involve STEM activities in fields such as acoustics, biology, physics, and robotics. The program will be piloted at one school this year, with expansion to more grades and schools in the coming years. The long-term goal is to reach students from elementary to high school through continuous interaction with STEM theories, topics, and projects.

The college also received a prestigious five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM award for $650,000. This nationally competitive grant will allow JJC to provide scholarship support for students with financial need, particularly those from underrepresented groups, who are interested in STEM studies. In addition to scholarships, students will be provided with faculty mentors, and will participate in journaling their experiences, speaker panels on STEM-related careers, and field trips to local industries. The STEM Scholars will also have the opportunity to work on research projects during the summer with JJC natural science faculty. These projects provide significant hands-on learning experiences to two-year college students, something traditionally only available at four-year colleges.

"JJC has great science faculty and resources," Dr. Morrison says. "It is a model for how a community college can make an impact on a student's life."

Dart Foundation
Award - $5,000

Ecolab Foundation
Award - $1,200
Project – STEM Ambassadors

National Science Foundation
Award - $649,901 over five years
Project – STEM Scholar Program

Renewal:
Constellation – An Excelon Company
Award - $30,575
Project – Girls Leading the Charge

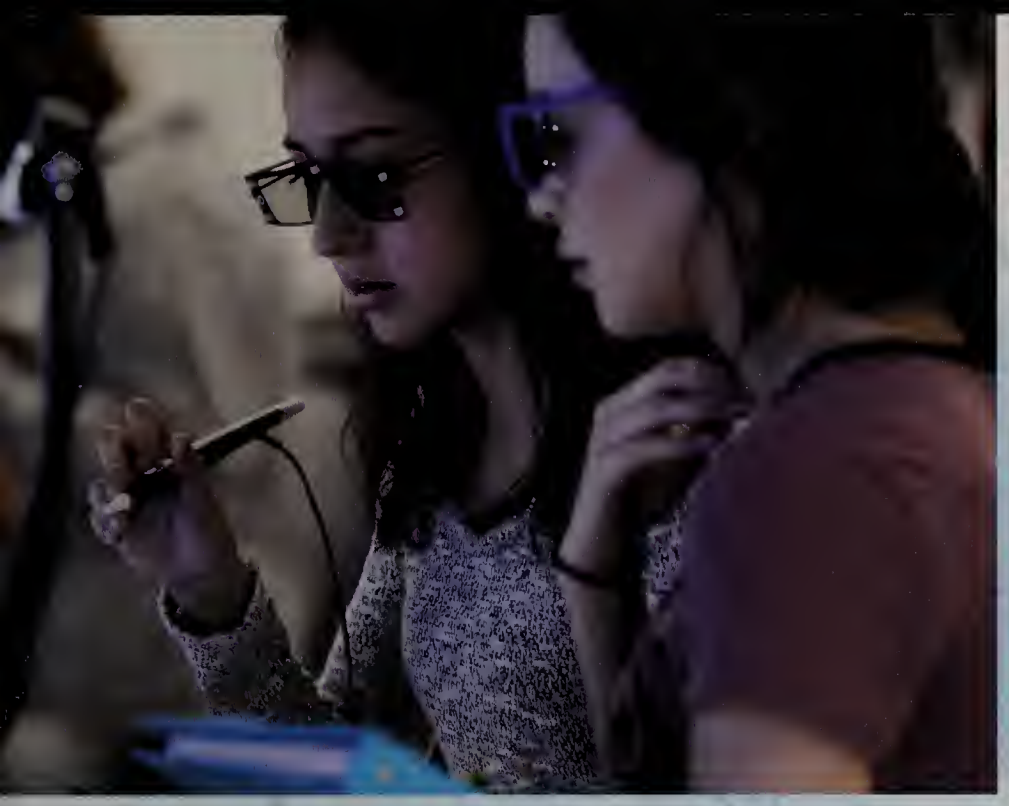
Virtual Reality Technology

BRINGS JJC CLASSROOMS TO LIFE

By Sam Ritz



Nursing professor Kathy Wolz helps students navigate JJC's zSpace equipment.





Imagine walking into a classroom and instead of pulling out a pen and paper, you're handed a pair of glasses.

Your nursing instructor assigns you to a computer, which displays the image of a beating human heart. Using a stylus, you move the heart into mid-air and flip it around – all with the flick of a wrist. You pull apart the right ventricle from the organ, which is still beating. Your instructor explains that this is the part of the heart that pumps blood into the lungs.

Looking at it so clearly, it's easy to picture this happening inside your own body. It's so realistic that it looks like it's alive right in front of you.

When you're finished, you take your glasses off, sit at a desk and direct your attention to the projector at the front of the room. Your instructor also has a beating heart on her screen. Without any eyewear, you can see the definition and detail of this projected image. She brings the organ forward and rotates it, continuing the lesson.

This scene may sound like it's straight out of a sci-fi movie – but it's actually happening in classrooms right now at Joliet Junior College, thanks to new technology that mixes augmented and virtual reality, powered by zSpace. This technology was integrated into the classroom in Fall 2017, thanks to support from a JJC Foundation Awards for Innovation and Excellence grant and the Vera Smith Technology Fund.

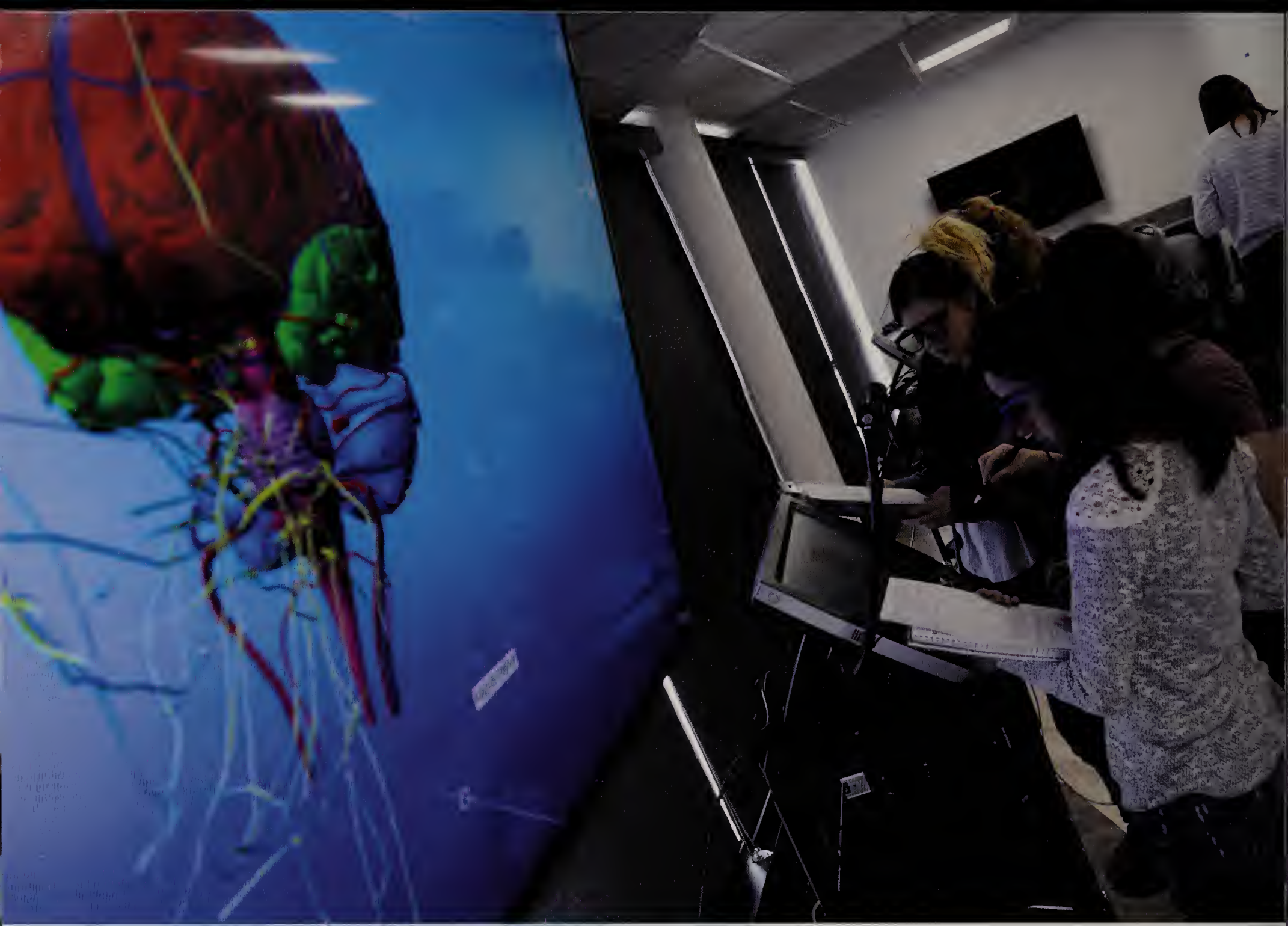
"The Awards for Innovation and Excellence Committee was excited about funding this project because it was something they had never seen or heard of and they felt it was going to bring technology to the next level for our students," said Kristi Mulvey, JJC's executive director for resource development.

And so far, the equipment has lived up to its vision.

> "The Awards for Innovation and Excellence Committee was excited about funding this project. They felt it was going to bring technology to the next level for students."
>
> – Kristi Mulvey

"When I bring this into the classroom, my students will see an artery, for example, and how it feeds into only one half of the brain," said Kathy Wolz, JJC nursing professor. "So, if a patient has a stroke on that part of the brain, they can see how that would affect the patient."

Wolz, who is working on completing a doctorate of nursing with a specialty in virtual reality in addition to teaching classes, said this equipment helps with student engagement and serves as practice before they start working with real patients.



Another benefit of zSpace is that it incorporates non-immersive eyewear, so when students put the glasses on, they won't be completely transported into a virtual world – which means they won't get sidetracked or lose their instructor's attention. This promotes collaboration and allows the student and instructor to stay connected.

"The first time we used zSpace, we looked at the kidneys and the urinary tract. I thought it was so cool," said Richton Park resident and JJC nursing student Chelsi Lewellyn. "You could see all of the structures really clear – it was better than seeing it in a book or on a YouTube video. You could pick up the organ, flip it around to see it better. It really brought it to life and made it look real."

"I think it helps students make more sense of the material because it brings what we are lecturing about to life," Wolz added. "It's a combination of using all the senses. Students get the opportunity to touch, feel and move around parts of the human body."

zSpace isn't just getting play in the classroom, either. According to Wolz, nurses across the country are starting to use this technology to teach their patients about what's happening inside their bodies. Knowing how this software works is just another skill JJC students can add to their resume.

And nursing is only one area of the college that's benefiting from this equipment. JJC's Computer Office and Information Systems (CIOS) Department is using it in a different way – to teach students about the 3D modeling, programming and coding languages behind the software.

CIOS professor Angela Sullivan is working on incorporating this into her curriculum for fall 2018. The plan is for CIOS students to create 3D models in the computer language, Autodesk Maya, which would then be imported into the zSpace platform for other departments so their students could use it in the classroom. For example, CIOS students could create a

scenario where the heart malfunctions so nursing students could see how each part of the organ is affected.

"Our students won't just be doing class projects but they'll be making something useful for other people," Sullivan said. "The other part is we're educating our students so that they'll get the experience they need to be ahead of the curve when they go to apply for a job."

Other opportunities for augmented and virtual reality across campus include technical students dissecting the parts of an automobile or machine and psychology students distinguishing the difference between parts of the brain, but the possibilities are endless for every area on campus.

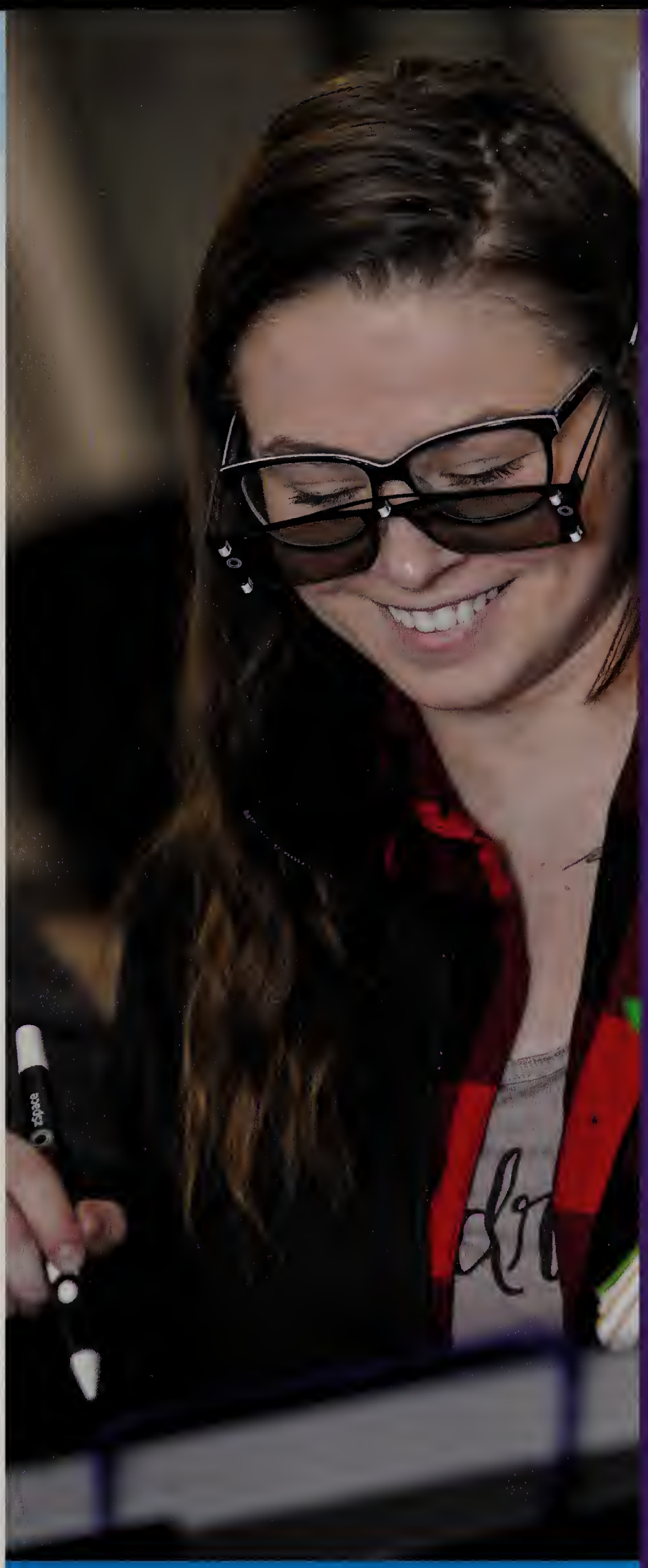
"As part of our vision to become 'first choice, 'we are always looking for ways to provide unique and innovative learning experiences for our students," said Jim Serr, JJC's executive director of information technology. "In today's digital age and in the era of online learning, it is imperative to merge the physical with the virtual. JJC is reimagining the learning experience for its students both now and in the future."

Both Wolz and Sullivan predict that in the future, JJC will invest in more virtual and augmented reality equipment as it becomes a more widespread technology.

"Every aspect of what we are going through in life has some form of technology component added to it," Sullivan said. "Virtual and augmented reality will become more prevalent – it's not going to be this expensive technology forever. There will be a plethora of jobs available. In the future, virtual and augmented reality will affect so many aspects of employment and job outlook."

For more information about JJC's CIOS program, visit **http://jjc.edu/academics/computer-information-systems**.

To learn more about JJC's nursing program, visit **http://jjc.edu/nursing**.



Want to support innovation at JJC?

Donate to the JJC Awards for Innovation and Excellence Fund using the enclosed giving envelope.

News Briefs

College Distributes Tuition Reimbursement to Students



by Rachel Rose

Joliet Junior College students received a surprise late last year as the college made an unprecedented announcement: that it would provide a partial monetary reimbursement to students attending JJC in the 2017-2018 academic year.

"JJC's board of trustees and college leadership made the difficult decision to raise tuition by $19 per credit hour in the spring of 2017 to help make up for an anticipated reduction in funding from the state of Illinois this year," JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell wrote in an email to students. "However, because state funding is better than expected this year, we are able to partially reimburse you for the financial burden you helped us shoulder during this difficult time."

Students received the appreciation payment in the form of a Visa prepaid debit card, which contained a reimbursement equal to $12 per credit hour totaling the specific number of hours taken by the student. The college disbursed around $2.9 million in total, an amount which equates to the extra state funding the college expects to receive above its FY18 budget.

The Board of Trustees made the student appreciation payment a priority after the fiscal year 2018 state budget was passed.

"We have all been impacted on some level by the financial instability at the state level," Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich said. "Many of our students struggle with financial barriers and we have worked diligently to remove these barriers through the development of additional scholarships and other support services. This action hopefully shows our students how important their continued success is to us and how we value their trust and investment in JJC as their first choice in higher education."

Board Appoints Deiters to Fill Vacancy

by Kelly Rohder-Tonelli



The Board of Trustees appointed Patty Deiters at their December 2017 meeting to fill vacancy spurred by the resignation of longtime trustee Andy Mihelich.

Deiters, of New Lenox, was one of two candidates interviewed by the board on Dec. 11. She will serve the remainder of Trustee Mihelich's term until the April 2019 election. Deiters previously served on the JJC board from October 2015 to May 2017.

Mihelich resigned in mid-November, citing a recent move to Springfield, Ill. as the reason for his departure since his residency is no longer within the college's district.

The board reached out to all five individuals who ran for trustee seats in the April 2017 election to offer them an opportunity to apply for the open seat. Deiters and Margaret Hornung of Shorewood submitted applications and were interviewed.

JJC is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, all of whom are elected from within the seven-county college district for at-large, staggered, six-year terms. A student representative, appointed annually, is a non-voting member of the board.

The JJC Board of Trustees includes Bob Wunderlich, chairman; Maureen Broderick, vice chairwoman; Mike O'Connell, secretary; John (Jake) Mahalik; Alicia Morales; Dan O'Connell; and Sante Deserio, student trustee.



Culinary Arts Alumna's Restaurant Chosen as One of Top Restaurants in America

By Katie Nork

JJC has produced some very successful culinary arts alumni, and Chef Diana Dávila-Boldin is no exception.

Her education at JJC taught her the basics of cooking. Dávila-Boldin said that the most valuable thing she learned while at JJC was "the foundation of the craft." She learned about proper knife work, basic cooking techniques and how to make stocks and sauces. She credits one of her professors, Chef Michael McGreal, with teaching her the most at JJC.

After graduating from JJC in 2002, Dávila-Boldin went on to study at Seasons of My Heart Culinary School in Oaxaca, Mexico to learn more about Mexican cuisine.

After a few jobs as a chef she decided that it was time to be her own boss, and her restaurant Mi Tocaya Antojería was born. It is located in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood.

If you glance around the new restaurant you'll see brightly colored paintings on the walls and cactuses everywhere. The restaurant is a tribute to her Mexican roots. People often question what the name of the restaurant means. She says that Mi Tocaya means "my namesake" and an Antojería is a type of restaurant that serves Mexican dishes in medium shareable plates.

Dávila-Boldin doesn't have a certain person that inspired her to become a chef.

"It was never whom, more so a calling," she said.

She attributes her calling to going out to eat at great restaurants with her parents and cooking at home with her family, especially in Mexico.

The inspiration for her recipes comes from her childhood and her family. She spent a lot of time cooking with her family in Mexico when she was a child.

In the short time Mi Tocaya has been open, the restaurant has received many accolades. One of these accolades is that Mi Tocaya was selected as one of Bon Appétit's top 50 new restaurants in America in 2017.

Photos Provided by Diana Dávila-Boldin



Professor Joseph Sullivan Ranked in Top 10 Percent of Cisco Instructors Worldwide

By Rachel Rose

JJC Professor Joseph Sullivan, Cisco Networking Academy program coordinator, was recognized by the Cisco Networking Academy this year with an Expert Level Instructor Excellence Award, placing him among the top 10 percent of all Cisco Networking Academy instructors globally.

The Expert Level Instructor Excellence Award recognizes instructors for their dedication and passion in the field of information and communications technology as well as their contributions and instructional excellence.

"It's truly an honor to receive the recognition," Sullivan said. "This award exemplifies the fact that JJC has the resources to provide an outstanding education to today's student population. Our administration truly cares about our students. They support and recognize the importance of this program as a cutting-edge field of study."

Prior to JJC, Sullivan worked as a system architect senior engineer for Motorola, Inc. During that time, Sullivan designed authentication systems for KDDI, the Japanese cellular company, E911 public safety access point number portability, and enhanced push-to-talk services. His engineering expertise enabled him to be the principal innovator of two international patents in the area.

Although he was a successful engineer at Motorola, Sullivan had little knowledge of network engineering. That is when he decided to take a Cisco class at JJC.

"My decision to re-attend college and develop a new skill-set has turned out to be a great decision. When I realized that everything was moving towards a networking infrastructure, I decided to take classes and learn about security, storage area networks, cloud infrastructure, e-commerce and mobile networks," Sullivan said.

While working as a full-time engineer, Sullivan took his first course with the Cisco Networking Academy at the JJC Romeoville Campus about fourteen years ago.

"In my first class, CNT 101, I learned so much about networking. From that point, I knew that technological advancements rely on networking infrastructure, which is the fundamental basis of working in the field of IT. I knew going back to school was the right decision."

Sullivan said the networking program is unique in that it doesn't require any specialized technical experience.

"Everything is taught from the ground-up. This recognition by Cisco for instructor excellence reflects our students' commitment in driving their career outcomes. Many students know that the Cisco certifications are recognized globally and it allows them incredible workforce portability with rewarding salaries. One of the great joys in my role as an educator is seeing students achieve their goals and successfully transition into a growing career or transfer to a four-year institution," he said.

2017
ANNUAL REPORT











Financial Aid Provided to Students From 2016-2017

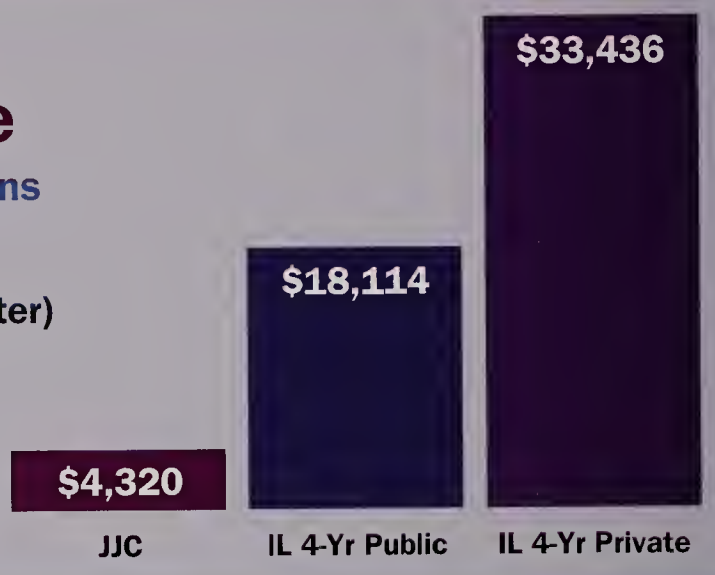
JJC students received over $12 million in state and federal grants.

12 MILLION

JJC is Affordable

Tuition and Fee Comparisons

Tuition and fees quoted as full-time (15 hours per semester) based on 2016-2017 rates.



Scholarships Awarded

$597,306 Total Amount of Scholarships Awarded

Attendance

Fall 2016 Credit Students



5,130 Full Time



10,253 Part Time

The district's financial status continues to be strong despite the state of Illinois' fiscal crisis. The state finally adopted a budget for FY18 after operating for two years without a budget. Included in this budget bill was full-funding for FY17.

The District left open positions vacant and deferred or eliminated expenses to offset this loss of revenue.

Overall revenues were $162.0 million, $5.2 million more than expenses. The surplus was due to the District eliminating expenses to compensate for concerns over the lack of State funding during the year.

Net tuition revenue increased by 6.2% due to an 8.7% increase in the tuition and fee rate that was offset by a decrease in credit hours and an increase in scholarships and tuition allowances.

Total costs increased by approximately 8.7% or $12.5 million due to budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, depreciation and an $8.4 million increase in the on-behalf pension contribution from the State of Illinois.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Assets [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2017	2016	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$87.3	$84.3	$3.0	3.6%
Capital Assest	252.5	221.1	31.4	14.2%
Non-current Assest	34.9	71.1	(36.2)	-50.9%
Total Assets	374.7	376.5	(1.8)	-0.5%
Current Liabilities	37.3	37.7	(0.4)	-1.1%
Long-Term Liabilities	203.5	210.1	(6.6)	-3.1%
Total Liabilities	240.8	247.8	(7.0)	-2.8%
Net Assets				
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	70.5	59.9	10.6	17.7%
Restricted	16.9	26.9	(10.0)	-37.2%
Unrestricted	46.5	41.9	(4.6)	11.0%
Total Net Assets	**$133.9**	**$128.7**	**$5.2**	**4.0%**

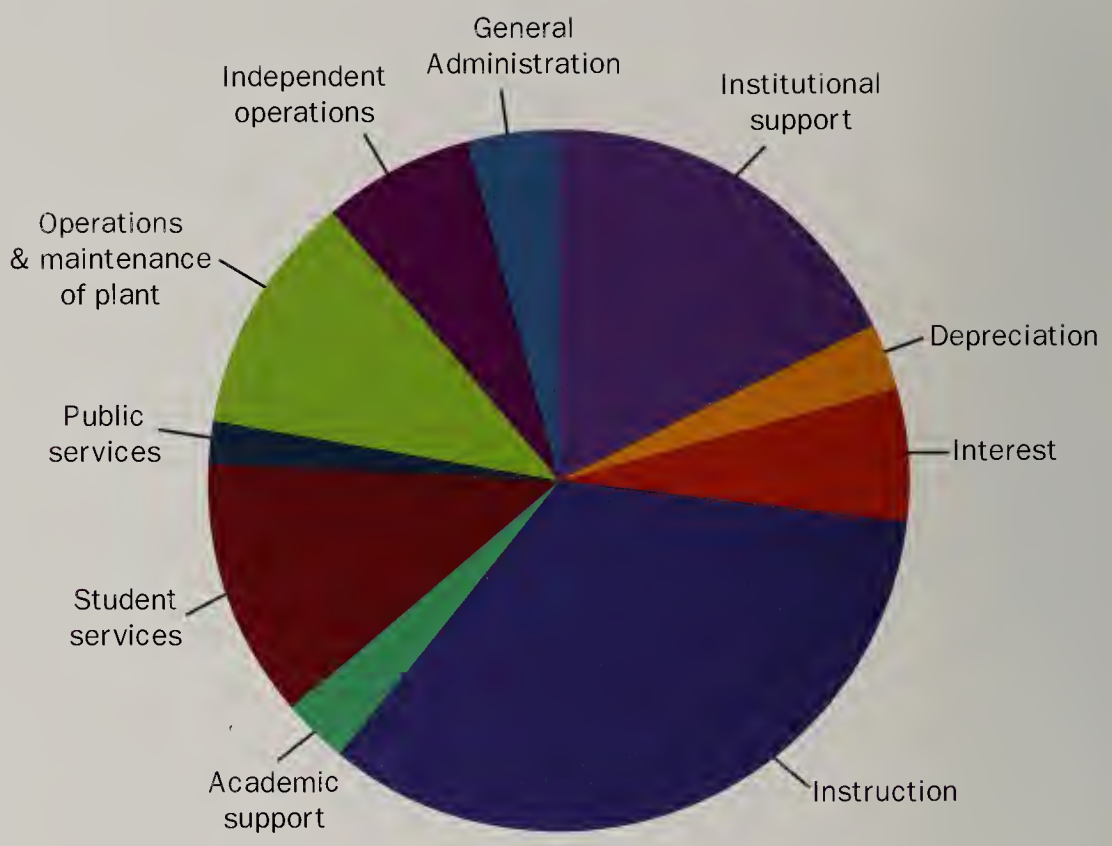
Changes in Net Assets from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $156.8 million. The District's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services which were $62.7 million or 40.0% of total expenses.

	2017	2016	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition & Fees	$39.9	$38.1	$1.8	4.7%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(11.0)	(10.9)	(0.1)	0.9%
Net Tuition & Fees	28.9	27.2	1.7	6.2%
Sales & Service Fees	8.0	8.2	(0.2)	-2.4%
Miscellaneous	0.9	0.9	-	-0.0%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	58.4	55.3	3.1	5.6%
State & Federal Sources	63.0	48.7	14.3	29.4%
Other	2.8	2.8	-	0.0%
Total Revenues	**$162.0**	**$143.1**	**$18.9**	**13.2%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	45.4	44.7	0.7	1.6%
Academic Support	3.9	4.0	(0.1)	-2.5%
Student Services	10.9	12.9	(2.0)	15.5%
Public Services	2.5	2.4	0.1	4.2%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	14.5	11.9	2.6	21.8%
Independent Operations	7.9	8.3	(0.4)	-4.8%
General Administration	5.4	5.5	(0.1)	-1.8%
Institutional Support	46.7	36.2	10.5	29.0%
Depreciation	10.2	8.5	1.7	20.0%
Interest	9.4	9.9	(0.5)	-5.1%
Total Expenses	**$156.8**	**$144.3**	**$12.5**	**8.7%**
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of Year	**$128.7**	**$129.9**		
End of Year	**$133.9**	**$128.7**		
Increase in Net Assets	**5.2**	**(1.2)**	**6.4**	

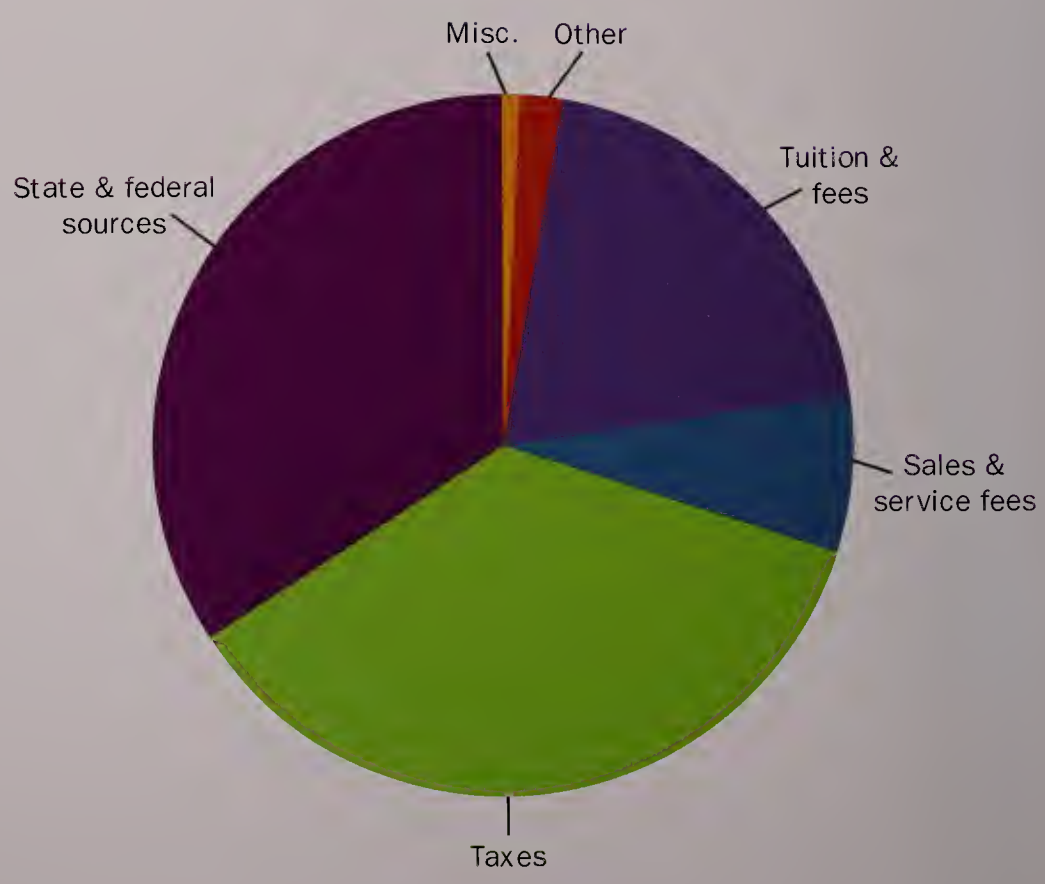
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2017

Instruction	**29%**
Academic Support	**2%**
Student Services	**7%**
Public Services	**2%**
Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**9%**
Independent Operations	**5%**
General Administration	**3%**
Institutional Support	**30%**
Depreciation	**7%**
Interest	**6%**

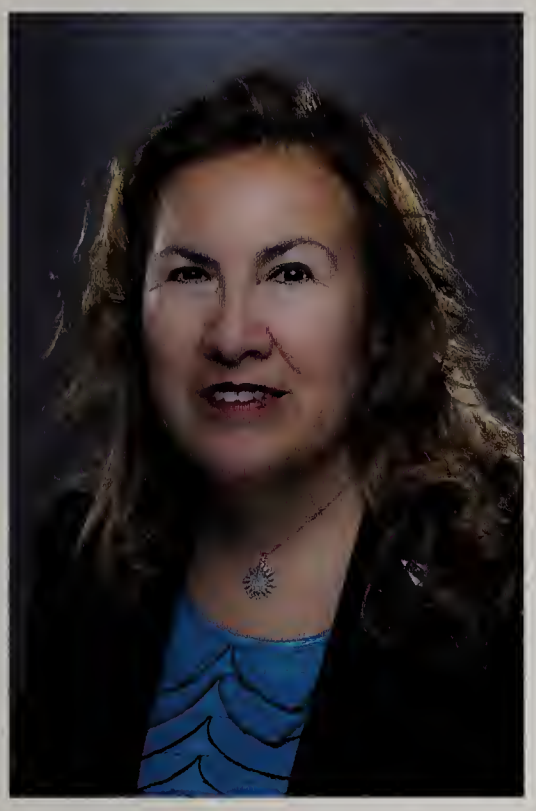


Revenue for Fiscal Year 2017

Tuition and Fees	**18%**
Miscellaneous	**0%**
Other	**2%**
Taxes	**36%**
Sales and Service Fees	**5%**
State and Federal Sources	**39%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Rosa Arias Angeles

Foundation President

Dear Friends of JJC,

I am honored to be serving my second year as President of the Joliet Junior College Foundation Board. The Foundation has been supporting the college since 1973. In the beginning, scholarships were the main priority of the Foundation. This focus has evolved into financial support for educational programs, equipment and special projects that enhance the learning environment for the students attending Joliet Junior College.

Being a member of the largest community college Foundation in Illinois has given me a greater perception of the impact that this college has on the community. My employer, First Midwest Bank, and I are dedicated to supporting the strategic goals and mission of Joliet Junior College.

As I continue my work on the board, I invite you to consider investing your time and financial resources to OUR community college.

Proudly,
Rosa Arias Angeles
President, JJC Foundation

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2017 and 2016]

	2017	2016
Total Current Assets	21,193,611	19,110,960
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,000
Total Assets	21,953,611	19,870,960
Total Current Liabilities	45,031	3,000
Total Net Assets	21,908,580	19,867,960
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	21,953,611	19,870,960

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2017 and 2016]

	2017	2016
Total Revenues	3,806,608	1,287,401
Total Expenses	1,765,988	1,462,057
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	19,867,960	20,042,616
End of Fiscal Year	21,908,580	19,867,960
Endowment	11,686,018	11,245,593
Investments	20,685,752	18,671,322
Annual Contributions	1,159,737	851,784
Scholarships Awarded	597,306	513,087

Thank You To Our Donors

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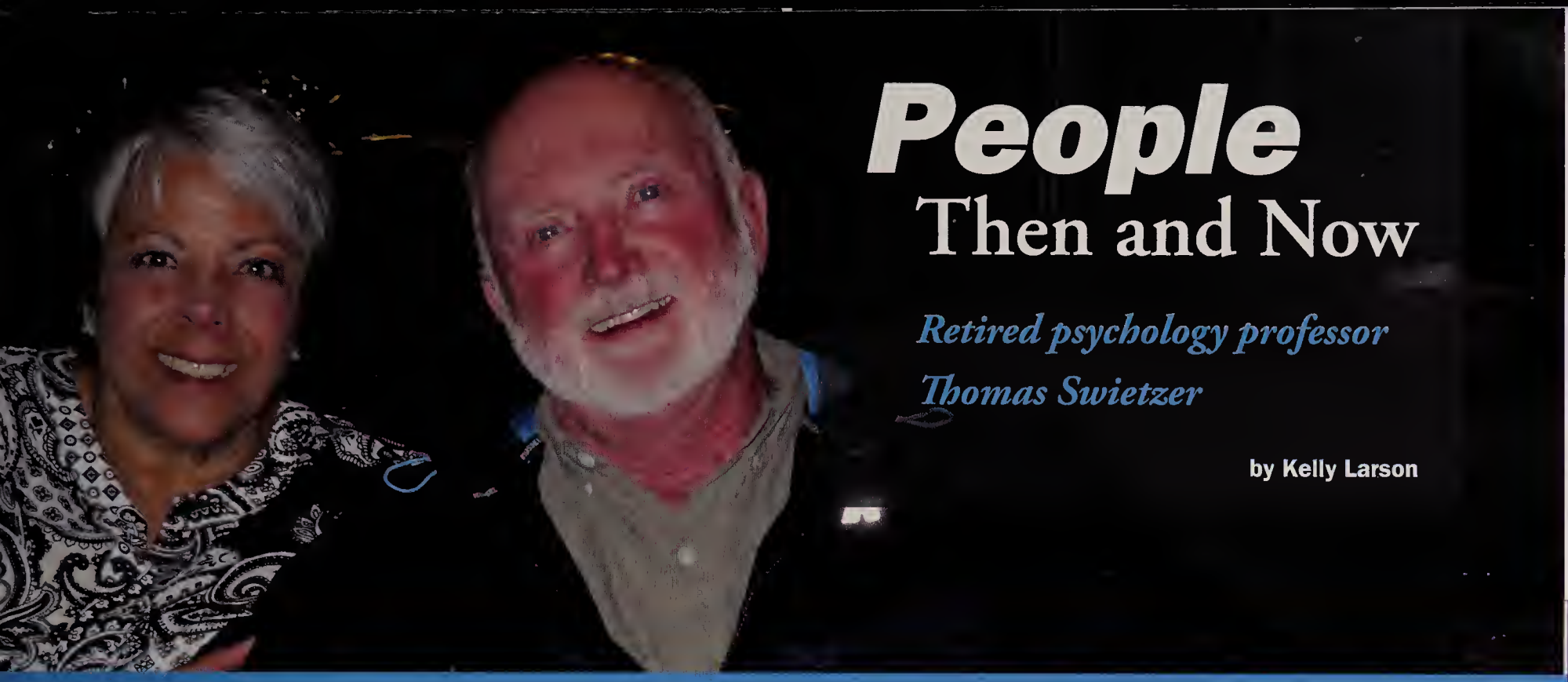
Help **further our mission** with the

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

If you are 70 and a half or older, you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. With an IRA charitable rollover, you can benefit yourself and help us continue our mission to fund scholarships, programs and equipment at Joliet Junior College.



Learn more today by calling the JJC Foundation at **(815) 280-2353**.



People
Then and Now

Retired psychology professor
Thomas Swietzer

by Kelly Larson

Retired professor of psychology Thomas Swietzer and wife of 41 years Ginny.

THEN

In 1978, Thomas Swietzer began working at the Joliet Junior College Romeoville Campus as a part-time professor of psychology and campus clinician. He also spent those first seven years teaching five courses to inmates in Stateville and the Joliet, Dwight and Pontiac prisons. When the grant ended in 1986, he began teaching full-time at Main Campus. Within one year, he earned the student-nominated Outstanding Full Time Teacher award.



"I really believed in my heart, students had a right to be happy. They come to campus with problems and it got in the way of their studies."

– Thomas Swietzer

During his tenure, Swietzer said he and a colleague established the Student Assistance Program (SAP) to address an overwhelming need among students on campus.

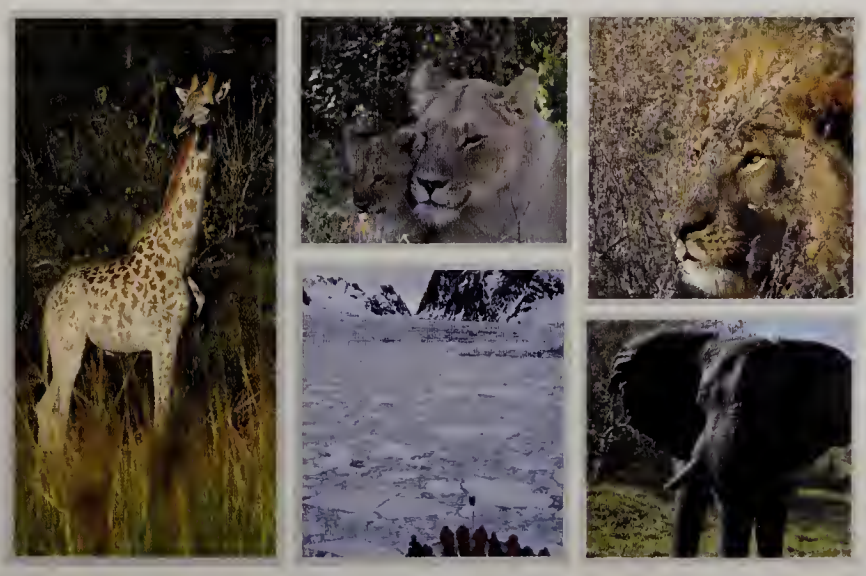
"I really believed in my heart, students had a right to be happy. They come to campus with problems and it got in the way of their studies."

Through SAP, Swietzer spent 100-120 hours a semester providing therapy/counseling sessions to students. His level of dedication can be seen by the more than 500 thank you letters he has received and saved from his SAP students over the years.

His proudest moment is when JJC employees and students came together to support a student in tragedy and never faulted in the process. This student was a victim of a deadly house fire. As he recalls, with the smoke smell still present, Swietzer was literally the first person the student turned to for support.

NOW

After 30 years of teaching at JJC, Thomas Swietzer retired in 2008. The avid musky fisherman has been married to his wife, Ginny, for 41 years. Ginny also taught at JJC. The couple started traveling early in their marriage. Together they have journeyed to all 50 states and Alaska three times. The two explorers have also been on all seven continents in the world. They look forward to their next adventure to Iceland and Greenland.



Hello Computer

A Pictorial History of Technology at JJC, 1961-1976

By Amy Chellino

"I overheard several faculty and administrative stalwarts whispering reverently, 'The computer is here' [and] 'Have you seen the computer yet?'" wrote student John R. Shields in the Blazer recalling the buzz on campus when the first computer arrived at Joliet Junior College in 1968. That first computer was mammoth, expensive and had limited memory and capabilities, but for 1968, this was cutting edge technology, and JJC was at the forefront.

From typewriters and keypunches, mainframes that filled an entire room to the first fifty-pound personal computer, the evolution of technology at JJC from 1961-1976 is illustrated through this retrospective spanning 25 years.

1960-1962

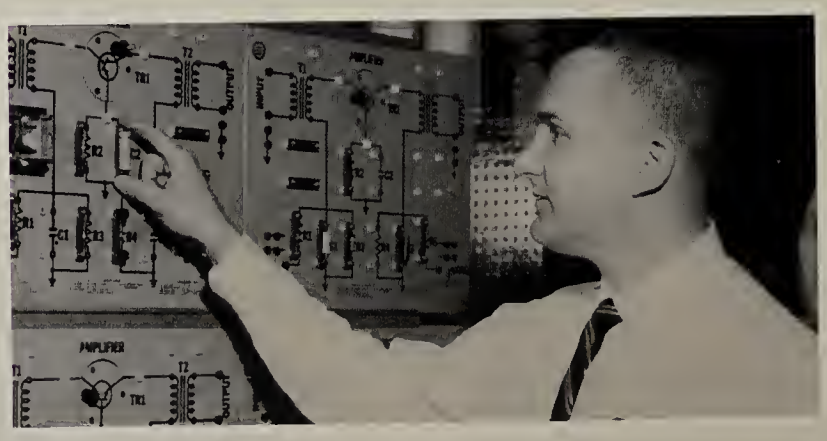
These photos from the 1960 and 1962 yearbooks show students using typewriters for their assignments. In an interview with JJC alumnus Joe Nichols '61, he recalls that typewritten assignments weren't even expected in his classes. "They couldn't be typewritten because typewriters weren't available for public use either at the college library or at the public library...The old typewriters were noisy, especially when they were bunched together...I think library patrons would have been annoyed by all the clatter those typewriters made," Nichols explained.

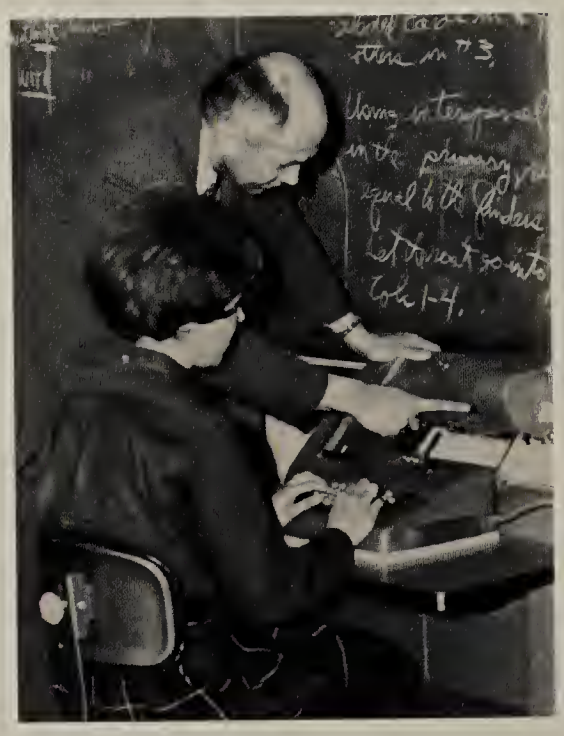




1963

From the early 1900s through the 1960s, mechanical calculators dominated the desktop computing market. This photo from The 1963 Shield shows students using mechanical high speed calculators. Electric calculators would take their place in the 1970s.





1966

Data processing teacher Eugene Small instructs a student on using an IBM keypunch in a 1966 photo from The Shield. The keypunch was used to create punched cards with data that could be read by machines—early data processing. Computers would eventually replace keypunches.

1968

In 1968, data processing was added as a new curriculum at Joliet Junior College. Classes were offered in computer programming and computer systems. Described in the Evening College 1968-1969 brochure as, "Your opportunity to acquaint yourself with a field that has a promising future," data processing became the fastest growing department at JJC. The department had keypunches, a sorter, a collator, interpreter, accounting machines and a computer. In this photograph, Charles Warthen from the technical education department demonstrates data processing equipment. A mainframe computer was used behind the scenes for scheduling and payroll.



1970

The two-part process of the keypunch machine is shown with a student creating punched cards that would then be sorted and run through a machine (The Shield, 1970).



1972

JJC's Computer Club is formed in 1972. The Student Handbook stated the club's purpose "is to enrich the students' awareness and understanding of Data Processing".

1975

Faculty member Scott Olsen, who would become the college's first webmaster, shares his memories on the computer equipment in this photo from the 1975 Shield. "This is a NCR Century 100 data processing computer system," Olsen explains. "It supported Administrative services: payroll, report generation, registration/ scheduling, and course class-lists....Programming was done by punch card, paper tape or magnetic tape....Storage was large magnetic platter disc drives which were very prone to disc crashes...Output was done by a very large line printer," Olsen recalled. "Oh, the days of green-bar paper".





1976

The IBM 5100 was the main attraction at a JJC Computer Club demonstration in 1975. The machine was noted in a 1975 Blazer article as "a look into the future... when every home could have its own computer or computer terminal." The IBM 5100 boasted "a 50-lb package of interactive personal computing" containing a keyboard, five-inch monitor display, tape drive, processor and memory. The monitor display allowed 16 lines of 64 characters, as noted in the 1976 Shield.



1976

JJC counselor and JJC student Linda Aguilar was a student in the mid-1970s. "There was a typing lab on the 4th floor of J, and the typing lab had electric typewriters...They were blue IBM Selectrics which was very modern," remembered Aguilar.

To view additional photos from the college's past, including digital copies of the yearbooks and Blazer, visit the JJC Library Archives webpage at **http://libguides.jjc.edu/collections/archives**.

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 280-2344

JJC Hosts Romeoville Campus Expansion, Event Center Grand Openings

By Rachel Rose



JJC student athletes and staff join Trustee Mike O'Connell, Board Chairman Bob Wunderlich, Dr. Mitchell, Trustee Alicia Morales, Trustee Jake Mahalik, and Board Vice Chairwoman Maureen Broderick to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Event Center on Sept. 12, 2017.

JJC hosted grand opening events for both the Event Center and Romeoville Campus expansion over the course of the Fall 2017 semester, marking the completion of the college's last major projects in the 2013 Master Plan update.

The 85,223 square-foot Event Center serves as an athletic facility, featuring basketball courts, volleyball courts, batting cages, conditioning space, and meeting rooms available for rental.

At the Sept. 12 event, JJC Trustee Mike O'Connell spoke to the importance of the facility to not only JJC students, but all members of the community JJC serves.

"This beautiful facility is the product of an immense planning effort, bringing together the voices of countless people across the college to ensure we were building a space that suited our students and our larger college district," he said. "As trustees, it is our priority to encourage the development of programs and spaces that align with your needs."



The ceremonial ribbon is cut at the Romeoville Campus expansion grand opening on Oct. 10. From left: Deisi Alcantar, JJC alumna; Dominick Demonica, DKA Architects; Jake Mahalik, trustee; Alicia Morales, trustee; Dr. Mitchell; Bob Wunderlich, board chairman; Maureen Broderick, board vice chairwoman; Dan O'Connell, trustee; Mike O'Connell, trustee; Mayor John Noak, Village of Romeoville.

The 49,000 square-foot Romeoville expansion is the first major construction on the college's Romeoville Campus since it opened in 1993, and provides new and enhanced amenities for students, including:

- Enrollment Services
- Counseling
- Financial aid
- Testing and tutoring
- Bookstore
- Cafeteria
- Laboratories
- Disabilities services
- Career Services
- Student activities

During the Oct. 10 event, Romeoville Mayor John Noak spoke to the value of the college's investment in the village.

"On behalf of the Village of Romeoville, I want to thank you for everything JJC does for Romeoville," Noak said. "Thank you for continuing to invest in this campus and the community; we are fortunate to be partners with you."

Students are now able to complete a full associate of science (A.S.) degree (a transfer degree), entirely at the Romeoville Campus without coming to Main Campus. Opportunities also exist to complete an associate of arts (A.A.) degree at the expanded campus, a transfer degree for many majors including business, psychology, social work, pre-law, and others.



Surrounded by student athletes representing every JJC sport, Dr. Mitchell addresses the crowd at the start of the Event Center ceremony.

Event Center Rental

The Event Center is available to the community for space rental: for more information about rental opportunities, contact Susan Stockwell at **(815) 280-2524** or **sstockwe@jjc.edu**.


Grand Opening
September 12
of the Wolves












JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE




First Choice
First for Learning
First Community College




JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE





JJC'S Night OF Stars

Joliet Junior College presents an evening of celebration and recognition at the first annual

Thursday, May 10, 2018
5 to 7 p.m.
Renaissance Center
214 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet

$30 per person
(includes one complimentary drink)

Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

HONOREES INCLUDE

J.D. Ross Extraordinary Serviee Award

Jeff Eberhard
Recognized for Humanitarian Service

Terry Kunze
Recognized for Humanitarian Service and Distinguished Public Service

Distinguished Alumni Aehievement Award

Jay D. Bergman, '68
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Chairman of the Board, First Secure Bank Group

Ed Czerkies, '57
Businessman and Philanthropist

Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award

Robert Wunderlich
JJC Board of Trustees Chairman
Wunderlich Builders, Inc., Owner

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 1
visit **jjc.edu/nightofstar**

Planetarium Shows

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

May 8	Asteroids and Comets
May 22	Black Holes
June 5	Seasonal Skies

Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

May 3	Larry Cat in Space*
May 17	Solar System
May 31	Seasonal Skies
June 14	Dark Matter

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the JJC Herbert Trackman Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium**.



**Shows put on for the very young astronomer*





Fine Arts Events

MUSIC

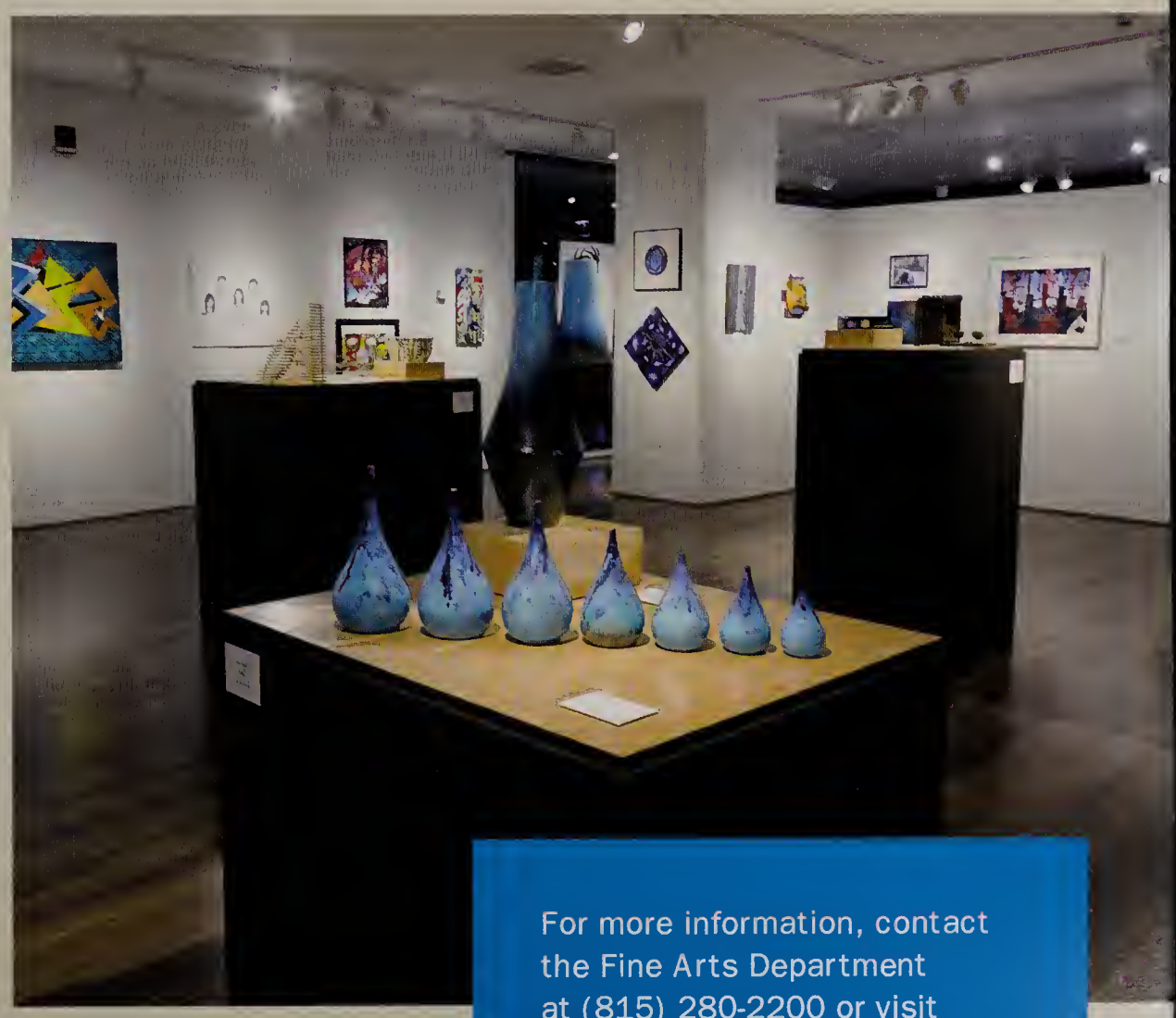
May 4	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
May 6	Community Band Concert, 3 p.m.
May 7	Honors Recital, 7:30 p.m.
May 8	Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Combined Concert, 7:30 p.m.

THEATRE

Children's Theatre Touring Show
June 11-15
Contact Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 for touring and booking information.

ART

Joliet Junior College Art Students' Juried Exhibition
April 23 – June 28



For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts**. All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainablecampus**



Sue Pritz-Bornhofen, a **1979 graduate,** credits JJC professors, counselors and staff for helping shape her career. Pritz-Bornhofen is the co-owner of the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate in Joliet. She has received numerous awards for her leadership and commitment to the Joliet community, including the Joliet Chamber's 2017 ATHENA award.

"My greatest memory is the sound of "D-mall" combined with both the social and educational events. It was always a win-win situation."

– Sue Pritz-Bornhofen, 1979

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/stayconnected** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine

A LEGACY OF LEARNING



PROFESSOR'S GENERATIONAL IMPACT

FALL 2018

Why We Give...

"Joliet Junior College gave us a great gift. Our education and the professors were outstanding. JJC was affordable, which was helpful. That's why we give back – so the college can continue to offer great classes and programs for students at a low cost."

Dr. Thomas and Susan (Davis) Streitz, class of '52 and '51, are proud alumni that choose to give back because they know their gift matters.



YOUR GIFT MATTERS, TOO

To make a gift, visit www.jjc.edu/mygiftmatters

CONNECTIONS

CONTENTS



JJC Steelpan Vibration Study Could Lead to New Discoveries

Students engaged in a new undergraduate research opportunity are gathering data to better predict the way vibrations occur.



A Legacy of Learning

Former JJC agriculture professor Bill Johnson taught generations of one family, leaving a lasting educational impact and legacy.



How JJC is Solving the Asian Carp Problem

In partnership with the USGS and IDNR, students are participating in new research to manage the invasive species problem.



JJC Student Leader Invited to State of the Union Address, Earns Dream U.S. Scholarship

Through her community work in immigration rights, Ana Campa Castillo is making a difference while earning her degree.



Community Members, Alumni Honored at Inaugural Night of Stars

Five individuals were honored for their impact to the community at the first Night of Stars in May 2018.

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Dear JJC supporters,

As the nation's first public community college, JJC holds a significant place in the collective history of higher education. Through our 117 years, I believe the college has survived and thrived because we understood the constant need to evolve and transform to meet the needs of our community.

The educational experience we offer today is very different than the educational world we knew and understood just 10 years ago. Artificial intelligence and virtual reality technology are increasingly driving forces in classrooms and curriculum. Colleges and universities across the country are considering and implementing new operational models—think Purdue University's acquisition of Kaplan University, as an example—while students expect 24/7 access to information and a highly personalized experience whether they are online or on campus. Community colleges are now offering bachelor's degrees in specific, high-demand programs. JJC faculty and students are now using what we call collaborative classrooms, a large departure from traditional classrooms and learning techniques, and we are embracing it in disciplines across campus.

Envisioning and planning for our future does not come without reflection on our past and gratitude to those who shaped JJC along the way. This issue of Connections is devoted to those themes, with our cover story exploring legacy and the meaningful influence that one individual can have on scores of students, colleagues, and communities. This transfer of knowledge, ideas and values has the power to change lives locally and globally.

We create futures at JJC, and I'm so glad you are a part of our story and our future.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President



Queridos amigos de JJC,

Como la primera escuela universitaria de la nación, JJC mantiene un lugar especial en la historia colectiva de estudios superiores. Durante los 117 años de trayectoria, creo que el colegio ha sobrevivido y sobresalido porque entendemos la necesidad constante de evolucionar y transformarnos para poder solventar las necesidades de nuestra comunidad.

La experiencia educacional que ofrecemos hoy, es muy diferente al mundo educativo que conocíamos hace 10 años. La inteligencia artificial y tecnología de realidad virtual son fuerzas que incrementalmente se utilizan en los salones de clase y al crear currículos. Colegios y universidades a través del país están considerando el implementar nuevos modelos operacionales – por ejemplo la Universidad Perdu ha adquirido la Universidad Kaplan – donde estudiantes esperan tener acceso a información las 24 horas del día 7 días por semana junto con una experiencia altamente personalizada, ya sea mientras estudian en línea o en el campus. Colegios comunitarios ahora están ofreciendo bachilleratos en programas específicos de alta demanda. Profesores y estudiantes de JJC ahora usan lo que llamamos salones colaborativos, una gran diferencia con respecto a los salones de clase y a las técnicas de aprendizaje tradicionales, y lo estamos adoptando en disciplinas a través del campus.

Imaginar y planear para el futuro, es algo que hacemos mientras reflexionamos sobre nuestro pasado y agradecemos a aquellos que moldearon a JJC. Esta edición de Connections está dedicada a esos temas, con nuestro artículo de portada explorando un legado y la influencia significativa que un individuo puede tener en un sin número de estudiantes, colegas y comunidades. Esta transferencia de sabiduría, ideas y valores tiene el poder de cambiar vidas a nivel local y global.

Creamos futuros en JJC, y estoy muy contenta de que ustedes sean parte de nuestra historia y nuestro futuro.

Sinceramente,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
Presidente





Dear friends,

We often recognize **time, talent and treasure** as components of stewardship and philanthropy. During my 20 years of working in the field of non-profit fundraising I have seen thousands of donors who give one or two of these to an organization that they feel connected to and have a desire to help.

In 2001, when I began my tenure here, I met Bill Johnson, a long-time agriculture professor whose time, talents and treasure were totally dedicated to Joliet Junior College. J.D. Ross, the college's president at the time, asked me to raise funds for a future building, the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center, so the college could build a $3.2 million facility on land that Mr. John Weitendorf, Sr. donated. Bill Johnson worked alongside me during those years by introducing me to area farmers who might be interested in donating to the facility. Bill and I became friends and he taught me a lot about agriculture. The Weitendorf Center opened its doors in 2007.

In 2010, Bill joined the Foundation as a faculty representative and he continued to give generously to scholarships for agriculture students. Bill's philosophy was that if someone wanted an agriculture education, finances were not going to be a deterrent. Over the 50 years that Bill taught at JJC, he gave over $450,000 to support agriculture scholarships.

I had the privilege to work with Bill and I know that anyone that met him knew he loved JJC. Bill passed away on May 1, 2018 after finishing his 50th year of teaching. He left a legacy at JJC by giving **his time, talent and treasure** to what he loved.

The JJC Foundation has established the William B. Johnson Memorial Agriculture Scholarship. I invite you to donate to this memorial endowment in celebration of a great man who truly cared about the students at JJC. Donations can be made online at **www.jjc.edu/givetojjc** or by check made payable to JJC Foundation, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431.

As you think about your **time, talents and treasure** please remember that giving is a noble act of kindness that can truly make a difference in someone's life.

With gratitude,

Kristin Mulvey, MSM
Executive Director, JJC Foundation and Institutional Advancement

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The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Offices of Marketing and Creative Services, Communications and External Relations and Institutional Advancement.

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Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for address corrections.

Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

JJC Steelpan Vibration Study Could Lead to New Discoveries

Your Participation is Sought to Help Advance Project

by Sam Ritz



Dr. Morrison and students Keanu Vasquez and Matthew Lange analyze sound waves created by steelpan drum beats through the crowd-sourcing platform, Zooniverse.

JJC Natural Sciences Professor Dr. Andrew Morrison's steelpan vibration study is making a difference. Not only will the collection of data from this study help scientists better predict the way vibrations occur, but students working on this project are already gaining valuable experience for internships and their future careers.

"This undergrad research experience will build our students' confidence. They may not realize it now, but I think they'll look back on this experience as they go forward and thrive," Morrison said.

Morrison's steelpan vibration study, funded in part by a National Science Foundation STEM grant, has several moving parts. After taking seven high speed videos of the sound waves created by steelpan drum beats, each video was broken down into approximately 2,000 frames. From there, JJC students and volunteers from around the world have been examining them. Once all the photos are analyzed properly, Morrison and his students will create an algorithm that will help predict the way these vibrations travel.

Morrison explained that this study could have a big impact in several fields, especially for industries that rely on machinery. For example, if a machine malfunctions, it is often fixed without understanding the science behind it. Morrison's study could help scientists better understand how, why and when these issues happen. This study could also be used as a foundation for future studies involving sound waves and vibrations.

JJC student Keanu Vasquez said working with Morrison has enhanced his experience as a college student. "Working on this project is making me more aware of how the science we learn in the classroom is conceived," he said.

Once all the frames for this study are analyzed – there are about 14,000 in all that need to be examined multiple times over – Morrison and his students will start creating the algorithm. In the meantime, they are seeking volunteers to analyze these photos through the crowd-sourcing platform, Zooniverse. To participate, all volunteers need is an internet connection and the ability to use their best judgment.

To learn more about Morrison's study, or to help Morrison and his students examine these vibrations, visit **https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/achmorrison/steelpan-vibrations**.

To learn more about JJC's Natural Sciences Department, visit **jjc.edu/academics/natural-sciences**.

JJC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Public participation is sought to help our faculty and student researchers learn more about how vibrations work.
To contribute your time, please visit **https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/achmorrison/steelpan-vibrations**.
No experience or background in science is required. Each photo analysis takes less than a minute to complete.

A LEGACY OF LEARNING

AG PROFESSOR'S THREE GENERATION IMPACT

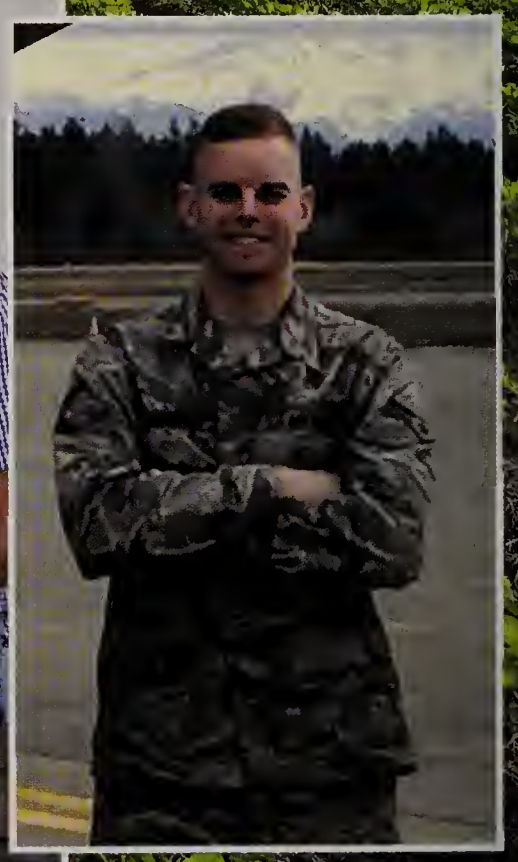
By Scott Harvey



Bill Johnson's Influence on Western Illinois Family Illuminates a Lasting Legacy







Jim Albrecht, his two sons David and Rob, and grandson Dan.

On a 3,000 acre wheat field in Fort Benton, Montana, Dan Albrecht was operating a combine as part of his internship with Schwanke Harvesting when he got a call from his boss. It was the summer of 2014 and Dan was one year away from earning his associate degree in agriculture business management from Joliet Junior College.

"He's here? He's in Montana?" Dan asked.

The visitor was Dan's agriculture instructor, Bill Johnson.

"It was awesome," said the Gilman, Ill. native, now 23. "Bill spent two or three days out there with us, had dinner with us and did the wheat run with us."

"Bill was one of those guys that never met a stranger. He would just walk up and talk to everyone."

– Rob Albrecht

Making those kinds of long-distance trips wasn't unusual for Bill. Whether he was checking in on current or former students, recruiting new ones, or advocating for agricultural education, Bill's commitment to the college and those he taught knew no bounds, and left a generational impact. For the Albrecht family, it spanned three generations.

"Bill was one of those guys that never met a stranger," said Rob Albrecht, 40, Dan's uncle and a 1998 agriculture business graduate. "He would just walk up and talk to everyone."

Before Rob completed his degree it was David, Dan's father. He was recruited by Bill a decade earlier to study agriculture production. But it was in 1968 when the Albrecht tradition officially got its start. Dan's grandfather Jim began at JJC during the final year the college shared its campus with Joliet Township High School in downtown Joliet. It was also Bill's first year as an instructor.

"So we grew up that way together," said Jim, who was just a year younger than Bill.

Bill was in his 50th year teaching at JJC when he died May 1, 2018. He was 73. The unique length of Bill's tenure enabled him to guide the career paths and shape the values of countless students. This type of longevity is almost never planned, and legacies are earned. It takes a passion that never weakens. Bill's passion was never lost on his students, as well as fellow faculty and staff, who had a front row seat to witness Bill's growing impact.



David Albrecht is a machine operator for Canadian National Railway, with a section headquarters in Gilman, Ill.



As track supervisor, Rob Albrecht oversees over 100 miles of CN's tracks from Monee to Tolono.



Dan Albrecht (center), with grandparents Jim and Carol.

"I was so impressed that multiple generations of a family benefitted from Bill's agriculture knowledge and dedication to the JJC program," said Tammy Miller, Bill's longtime colleague and also one of his former students. "My thought was how tremendous the influence Bill had on students that they would encourage their children to attend JJC."

While Jim's children weren't expected to enroll at JJC, his relationship with Bill certainly helped two of his sons get to know him and learn about the college's quality agriculture program.

"With all the boys, we'd go to ag events and Bill would be there and we'd introduce them to David, Robbie, and the same with Daniel," said Jim. "And so you became a big family to begin with before you went to school. That was the way that Bill was."

After initially spending his post high school years at General Foods, Jim's pursuit of an agriculture production degree from JJC began at age 23.

"I was the old man at the school at the time," Jim joked. The two kept in touch after he graduated, when Jim went to work as a research assistant for a company in DeKalb. Three years later, as Jim began to ponder his next professional step, he sought Bill's advice.

"I was so impressed that multiple generations of a family benefitted from Bill's agriculture knowledge and dedication to the JJC program."

– Tammy Miller

"Bill said, 'You always go home and call square dances on the weekends, and you go home and you help farm, so why don't you just go home?' And so that's what I did," Jim said.

Home for Jim was Gilman, a community of 1,800 residents located along Interstate 57 an hour and a half south of Chicago. It's where he and his wife, Carol, met and the area they returned to after Jim's stint in

northern Illinois. Gilman was a frequent stop for Bill, who hunted pheasants regularly with Jim, and recruited students from the local high school.

"I was very strong in FFA [Future Farmers of America], and Bill was always down at Iroquois West and pushing the Joliet Junior College ag program," said David, 48.

In 1998, David began commuting to JJC three days a week. Eight years later, Jim's other son Rob would move to Joliet to earn his degree.

"He was a very fatherly figure. No matter what was going on in his class or anywhere else at the college, Bill would always find out about it somehow. So if you were late to your first class Bill would be that guy in the hallway saying, 'Hey I heard you were a little late this morning. Is there anything we need to discuss about that?'" Rob recalled. "And you gave the same answer, 'nope, it won't happen again, sir. And kept on moving.'"

"He had contacts everywhere. You could name what town you kind of wanted to be in or geographical area and he found it."

– Rob Albrecht

Bill's influence went beyond the classroom through his ability to place students in the right professional setting after graduation.

"He had contacts everywhere. You could name what town you kind of wanted to be in or geographical area and he found it," said Rob.

For David, his professional career started on a farm south of his hometown, while Rob was placed with food processing and commodities trading company Archer Daniels Midland.

These days, they're both living near their parents and working in Gilman for Canadian National Railway, Rob as the track supervisor and David as a machine operator.

But their mother Carol is quick to point out that her sons are still farmers at heart. David tends to a small garden on his property, while Rob raises cows, has alpacas and chickens.

"The area we live in here – to say you ever get out of agriculture I don't know if that's necessarily a true statement," Rob said.



Johnson appearing in JJC's 1969 yearbook.



A faculty portrait of Johnson in 1986.



Former JJC President J.D. Ross presenting Johnson with the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award for exceptional service in 2017.

That agricultural state of mind is still present for Dan. A year after getting that surprise visit from Bill in Montana, Dan earned his degree in agriculture business management. That career path was put on hold to join the Air Force, where he serves as a jet mechanic and is based in Washington State. But Dan is still eyeing an agriculture career after the military, and credited Bill's encouragement three years ago as the driving force behind his current work and future aspirations.

"Going on that wheat run was the first time I had ever left home," said Dan, who like his father David lived in Gilman and commuted to JJC three times a week. "I left home for the internship for three and a half months – it was 102 days that I was gone. Bill said, 'You will never regret doing this wheat run.'"

He hasn't. The things Dan learned, people he met and overall experience have helped him grow. "Experience is everything. It's the connection," he said.

Bill Johnson spent most of his life connecting students to successful careers in an industry he loved. For 50 years, it was a love that never wavered, enabling him to teach thousands of students, and in some cases multiple generations of a single family.

People that knew Bill thought of JJC and agriculture as one in the same, which his students like Dan are quick to point out.

"JJC was his life. It really was," said Dan. "Anybody that knew Bill Johnson knew he had always been at JJC and he was all for it."

> **"He leaves a legacy that will never be duplicated. But yet he's laid a strong foundation for us and I'm confident that we will continue the JJC ag programs in his honor."**
>
> – Tammy Miller

On May 24, less than a month after Bill's death, the college held a memorial for him at Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center, which included the dedication of the William B. Johnson Arena.

"He leaves a legacy that will never be duplicated," said Tammy Miller. "But yet he's laid a strong foundation for us and I'm confident that we will continue the JJC ag programs in his honor."

WILLIAM B. JOHNSON MEMORIAL AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP



The JJC Foundation has established the William B. Johnson Memorial Agriculture Scholarship.

Donations can be made online at **www.jjc.edu/givetojjc** or by check made payable to:

JJC Foundation
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431

How JJC is Solving the Asian Carp Problem

New undergraduate research initiative opening doors for students

by Scott Harvey



How JJC is Solving the Asian Carp Problem



From left: JJC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Randall Fletcher, Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Sonya Williams, USGS Research Biologist Robin Calfee, Nicholas Fernandez, John Rigoni, Syuzanna Darbinyan, Carlos Bravo, Emilio Rodriguez, Sean O'Dell, Joseph Badalamenti, Dr. Patrick Mills and Bradley Czerniak. Not pictured: Professor Clinton Garwood and student Cadarrius Banks.

Over several weeks in May, beneath the surface of the Illinois River, some 200 candy-like blocks were placed inside commercial hoop nets to lure Asian carp. Flavored with either pineapple, garlic or aniseed, these 5-pound blocks of sugar scattered in and around Starved Rock Marina were a test case for controlling the invasive Asian carp, one in a series of projects spearheaded by Natural Sciences Professor Dr. Patrick Mills and a group of JJC students.

By partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Mills has placed JJC at the center of an effort to curb the species' immediate and continuing threat to aquatic ecosystems across and beyond the Midwest.

"Informal research I had conducted suggested flavor-based attractants may provide the most efficient, cost-effective route to the large scale removal of Asian carp, principally from rivers, through the use of commercial hoop netting methods," Mills said.

The college worked with Alsip-based Taylors Candy to create the candy blocks, and coordinated the study with the DNR to coincide with its hoop net deployment in May.

"Who would have thought pineapple or aniseed would serve as an attractant for fish?"

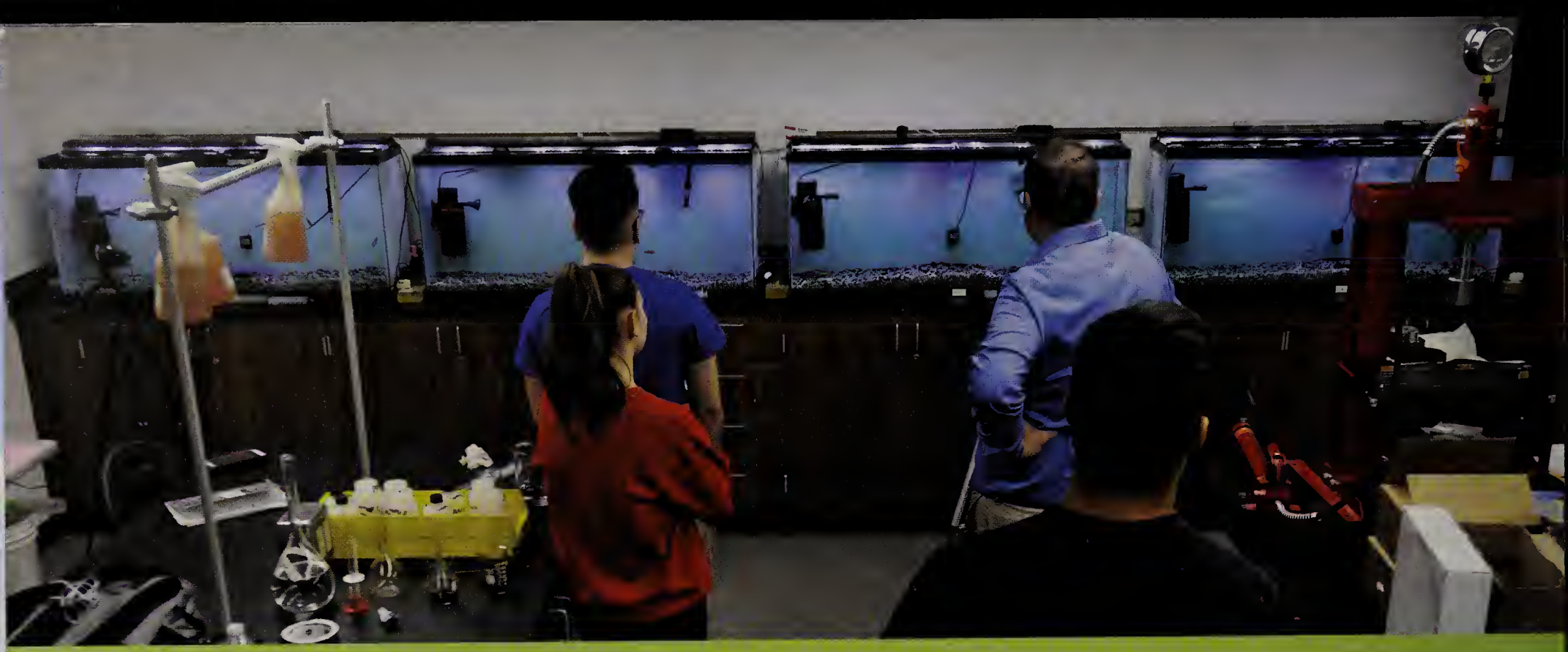
– Robin Calfee

Preliminary results revealed the fish were attracted to the pineapple-flavored blocks over other flavors. Robin Calfee, a research biologist with the USGS who has been working with Mills, said she was pleasantly surprised by the findings.

"Who would have thought pineapple or aniseed would serve as an attractant for fish?" said Calfee, who is based at the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center in Missouri.

Calfee added that a second round of studies, to take place this fall, is necessary to produce an accurate statistical analysis, after which the results will be published.

Over the summer, Mills' research group, which includes professors Bradley Czerniak, Clinton Garwood, and a multidisciplinary group of seven JJC students, researched ways to boost the blocks' potency inside a campus laboratory. Their work was ultimately to



Students examined how goldfish responded to amino acids that were introduced in 55-gallon tanks. The goldfish served as a good model, according to Mills, because they're part of the same family of fish as Asian carp.

enhance the effectiveness of the flavored blocks by combining amino acids to the formula, all the while sustaining an environmentally conscious approach.

"Everything is edible to humans," said Mills. "So there's no danger whatsoever to the environment because it's all food-grade ingredients."

The lab work started inside two, 55-gallon tanks containing goldfish, where amino acids were introduced and the fishes' responses analyzed.

"[The acid] forms some sort of a stimulus with them and makes them search for food and bite a lot," said Emilio Rodriguez, 19, a biochemistry major from Plainfield.

The goal was to determine the optimal concentration of amino acids required to initiate a strong feeding response. The goldfish served as a good model, according to Mills, because they're part of the same family of fish as Asian carp.

Nearby, Sean O'Dell used a hydraulic press to create compact, amino acid tablets coated in salt. The 21-year-old nursing student from Peotone then broke the tablet into pieces, layered each with vegetable oil, and cooked them into the flavored block.

"You take the active ingredient that we're focusing our research on, this amino acid, and you're trying to protect it in a way with the salt and oil," O'Dell said. The resulting mixture, which resembles Rocky Road ice cream, would be placed into the water to slowly dissolve, emit the ingredients and attract fish. To slow the rate of diffusion, John Rigoni, 20, and Carlos Bravo, 21, prepared a dosing container prototype using a 3D printer housed in JJC's Maker Lab.

"During the May study, the sugar by itself would disintegrate in a couple of hours. So we wanted to slow the pace of the water flow so it lasts around 48 hours," said Bravo, a civil engineering major from Plainfield. Mills said that with every research project, there are barriers to making the experiment work.

"There's always the initial phase where you're trying to make it work and it doesn't," he said. "It's just grinding through and making sure you just keep going. And the students, to their credit...they didn't give up and actually solved the problem. So I'm very proud of them."

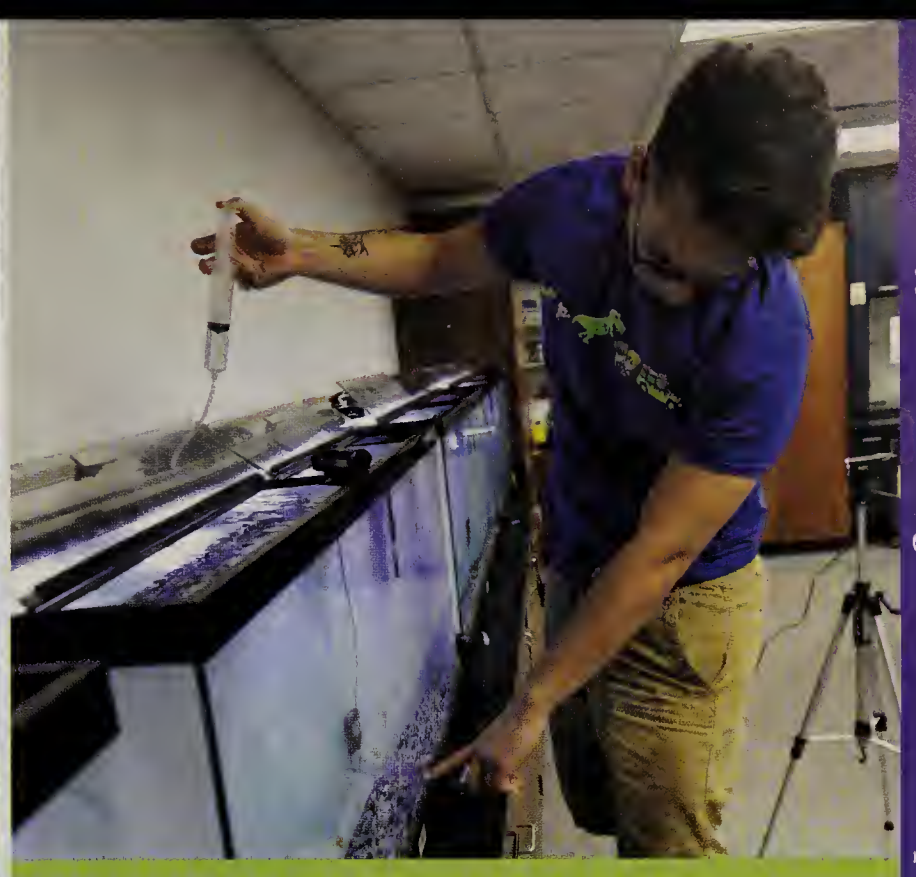
Mills and Calfee look forward to retesting the Asian carp response this fall using the revised candy blocks.

"I'm so excited to collaborate with Patrick and the college," said Calfee. "If we can link up his amino acid complex to some flavors and figure out the behavioral response I think we might be on to something."

JJC and the USGS are working to expand their research collaboration through resources for faculty and internships for JJC students, who would have the opportunity to work at both the college and the agency's research center in Missouri.



Dr. Mills displays a hardened mixture of amino acid tablets and salt, layered in vegetable oil which he said resembles Rocky Road ice cream.



Emilio Rodriguez adds amino acids into a fish tank to analyze the fishes' response.

"It's a benefit to both our center and to the students because the students are gaining experience while they're still attending school and we're getting help from them," Calfee said. "So it's a win-win situation."

Dr. Randall Fletcher, JJC vice president of academic affairs, said that the college is committed to student-led research, and the Asian carp project is an excellent example of student learning that carries weight beyond the classroom.

"JJC students now have more opportunities than ever before in our history to be immersed in both empirical and applied research," he said. "Cross-pollination of ideas, research and discovery is at the core of our undergraduate research initiative."

The group also recently received a $25,000 grant through the JJC Foundation's Awards for Innovation and Excellence program. The funds are being used to involve other JJC departments in the project, including Computer Information and Office Systems, Technical, and Agriculture and Horticulture Science, as well as the college's Maker Lab. Mills said this adds valuable support in creating analysis software and designing equipment to support research activity.

"A cross-campus effort such as this is essential," Mills said. "The design and implementation of inventions like the attractant blocks rely on collaboration between entities with a diverse range of skills. This is a situation ideally suited to the community college environment."



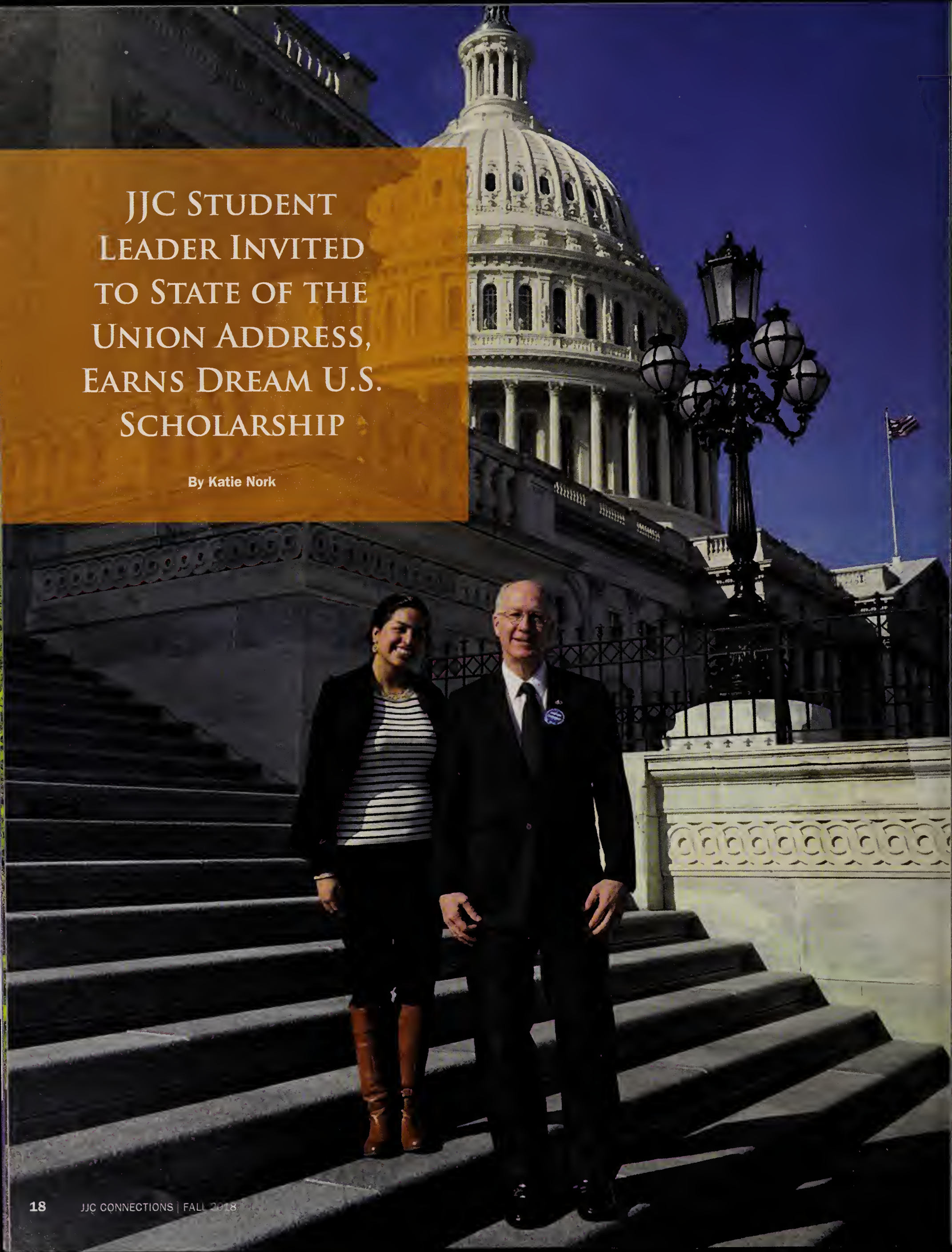
Sean O'Dell prepares to cook the amino acid, salt and oil mixture to create a block.



Dr. Mills introduces USGS Research Biologist Robin Calfee at a press conference on the JJC campus in July 2018.

JJC Student Leader Invited to State of the Union Address, Earns Dream U.S. Scholarship

By Katie Nork



In January, one of Joliet Junior College's top students was invited to the State of the Union address in Washington D.C.

Ana Campa Castillo, a 26-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient and first generation college student, was asked by 11th District Congressman Bill Foster to attend the address as his guest. She arrived in the United States 20 years ago from Mexico City.

Castillo was asked to be Congressman Foster's guest because of her involvement in immigration rights with the Southwest Suburban Project in Bolingbrook and the Spanish Community Center in Joliet.

"The work that Ana has done is just one of the examples of the great contributions these young people make to our society," said Congressman Foster.

In her time advocating for immigration rights, she met a lot of people that were in need of a voice in the community.

"I found JJC very comforting and I found not only academic support from my professors but within the staff."

– Ana Campa Castillo

"I saw the hundreds of thousands of people there gathered and noticed there is a lot to work on, a lot of work needed still to move forward. After that I started joining not only to benefit my family but many more families out there," said Castillo.

On top of juggling school and community activism, Castillo is married and has two children, ages 9 and 1.

Just prior to graduating with her associate degree in psychology in May 2018, Castillo found out she had won the highly competitive Dream U.S. Scholarship and was awarded $29,000 to complete her bachelor's degree. "My goal was just getting an associate and becoming a case worker and that was it," she said.

Now she plans on earning her bachelor's degree so she can become an advocate for mental health. Her goal is to educate people about mental health services that are available, especially within the Latino population.

"There's a lot of need for that intermediate person to help bring the services that are available to the families that need them. Since the language is a big barrier, I feel I can help build a bridge between the community and the services," she said.



Congressman Foster and Castillo with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (center) prior to the State of the Union Address.

Photo credit: Office of Congressman Bill Foster

Castillo was also the recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA). This award is given to JJC students who excel academically, evolve as a student leader and has served the JJC and external community.

Becoming a member of OMSA played a big role in Castillo's success. She credits the office with helping her feel welcome and connecting her to resources a the college.

"I found JJC very comforting and I found not only academic support from my professors but within our staff."

Castillo will go on to pursue her bachelor's degree at National Louis University.

JJC's Social Spaces: The Smoker, Lounge, D Mall and the Bridge

by Amy Chellino

The most memorable and meaningful aspects of our lives are the social connections we make. In college, these relationships open up discussions that ignite debates, leading to hours-long conversations, encouraging students to try out new viewpoints and test their beliefs. The social spaces that harbor these friendships are hallowed ground on campus where the bonds of acceptance and support are formed.

In the 1940s, '50s and '60s, when JJC was housed at Joliet Central High School, the Smoker and Lounge were the places to be. Between classes, these hangouts gave students a sense of identity and meaning and began to shape the individual within the community. When JJC moved to its current campus in the early 1970s, the D Mall and Bridge were areas dedicated to students for unwinding and meeting with friends. Today, these popular spots are still filled with discussion, studying, and student activities.

In the 1960 yearbook, Assistant Dean Susan H. Wood celebrated the spirit of JJC with these words: "While there is a great deal of evidence to prove that college graduates earn more money during their lifetimes than those without a college education, their greatest dividends are the many intangibles which make their lives meaningful and purposeful." Compassion, kindness, company and generosity are a handful of traits Wood was referring to as we learn by communicating and connecting with our peers. Our legacies, which unfold within us and are nurtured by our friendships, begin in these social spaces.



The Smoker: 1940s-1960s

Opened in 1947, one of the most popular spots on JJC's campus was the smoker. Initially, it was only for men and described in a 1948 Blazer as "the masculine sanctuary of nicotine neurotics" and a "cough chamber." Historian Robert Sterling noted, "[Opening the smoker] was due largely to the number of returned servicemen on campus to whom smoking had become a near necessity." Alumnus Dorian Riggen '61 recalled, "The smoke was so thick that even though I smoked at the time, I hardly went in there."

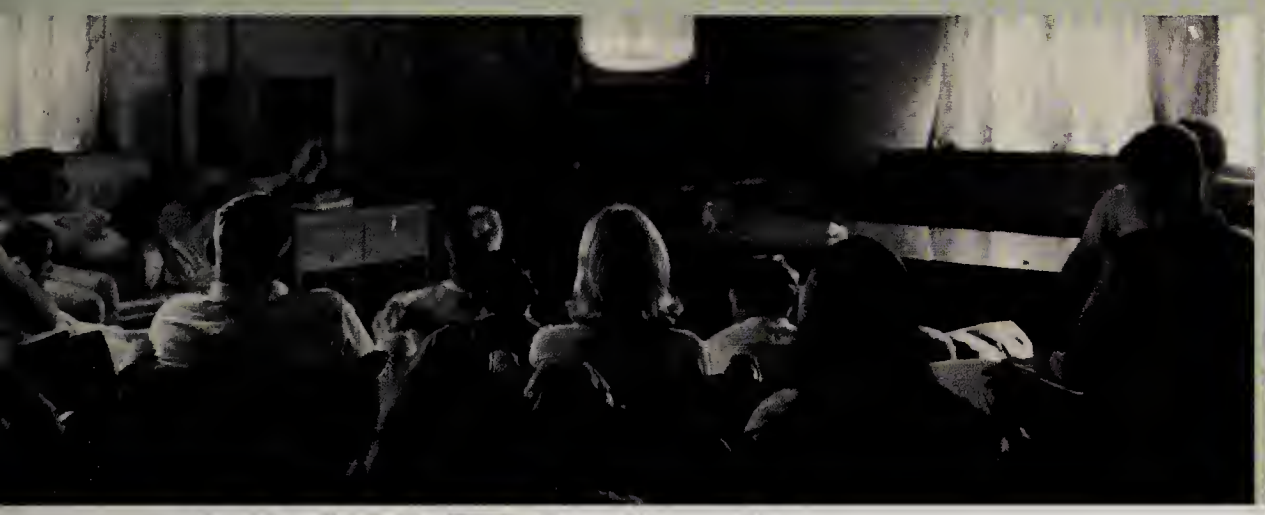




The Lounge: 1950s-1960s

The lounge offered a place for students to visit with friends, work on assignments, have club meetings and watch TV. Alumnus Harry Reiss '65 recounted, "Everyone hung out in the lounge between classes... It was where gossip took place and dates were made." Sterling noted, "The lounge was described as the heart of the college socially, one of the first places that students looked when trying to locate their friends." In 1955, the lounge received a $3,000 remodel including a 21-inch television set and 45-speed record player.









D Mall: 1970s

Known as a center for culture and entertainment on campus according to a 1973 Blazer article, The D Mall was the place for ID photos, college recruitment, club meetings, concerts, comedians and socializing...truly a little bit of everything. Thousands of students passed through the concourse making their way to class each day. The carpeted stairs offered a perfect gathering place between classes. Alumna and retired faculty member Catherine Suchy '83 explained that Seal Island was the nickname for the stair area. "Lots of folks gathered there and there was also a lot of smoking!" Suchy recalled.

While the stairs have been converted to the Office of Student Activities, there are still plenty of tables and chairs where students meet. The Office of Students Activities keeps everyone busy and happy with free popcorn days, grab 'n go breakfast, numerous Welcome Week activities, and much more.







Bridge: 1970s-Present

The Bridge, which links the J-Building to the Main Campus concourse, opened on Sept. 25, 1974 and gave students their own space for socializing while taking in the beauty of nature. Suchy recalled, "The Bridge was an area of student gathering, especially on cold days when there would be a blazing fire in the fireplace...You could smell the wood smoke and it was rather charming."

The Bridge remains a favored area for meeting with friends, entertainment and special events. The floor to ceiling picture windows provide views of the lake, trees and wildlife. Students mark their time at JJC by spending time on the Bridge amidst the autumn colors, peaceful snowflakes, spring buds and summer sun which brings a seasonal rhythm to the academic year.









To view additional photos from the college's past, including digital copies of the yearbooks and Blazer, visit the JJC Library Archives webpage at **https://library.jjc.edu/collections/archives.**

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 280-2344

People
Then and Now
Mike & Cristina Hill

by Carrie Anderson





THEN

Mike and Cristina Hill were spotlighted in our Fall 2016 issue as a married couple who were attending the college's nursing program together. Not only were they balancing their work and student life, but they had four kids at home, too.

They were two of more than 450 veterans attending classes at JJC that year. Taking advantage of the financial benefits from the GI Bill, they wanted to pursue their education at JJC in the nursing program.

NOW

After taking every class together and volunteering at the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic together, Mike and Cristina Hill walked across the stage at the May 2018 Commencement Ceremony with associate degrees in nursing, both with high honors.



Taking classes together since the beginning was always a driving force for the Hills.

"Being able to stay together helped keep us motivated, we liked to compete to see who could get the better grades!" Cristina Hill said. "It was also great to have the built-in support system and study partner."

Earning their nursing degrees turned into a family affair.

"Before a big test, we would sit down with our kids and they would ask us questions from notecards," Mike Hill said. "We made a game of it—if I won, we would go for Dairy Queen."

So when it was time for graduation, naturally, all four of their children attended both the pinning ceremony with the Nursing Department and subsequent commencement ceremony.

"Our son is set to graduate next year and our daughter in four years, we have been encouraging them both to attend JJC," both shared.

Cristina currently works as an RN at Alden Estates Rehab in Naperville, though both plan to continue their education. Mike's long-term goal is CNRA and Cristina hopes to work in pediatric oncology.

"Later on in my career, I hope to become a nurse educator. I want to share with others what our instructors at JJC shared with Mike and I," Cristina said. "The JJC nursing staff was great, not only did they teach us so much and prepare us to be future nurses, they were also very supportive and great mentors. They really care about the success of the student."

News Briefs



Balancing the Budget 46 Years and Counting

By Scott Harvey

In passing the FY2019 budget on June 13, 2018, the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees approved a structurally balanced operating budget for the 46th consecutive year.

At $95.7 million, the total operating budget for FY19 is 4.6 percent more than the year before.

"I believe Joliet Junior College has thrived over its 117-year history because we adapt to environmental stressors, we champion innovation, and we work to understand the unique educational needs of our district," Dr. Judy Mitchell, JJC president, said. "And most importantly, we evolve to meet those needs through judicious planning."

Mitchell said it was important throughout the planning process to keep the college's operational budget conservative while supporting the goals and objectives outlined in the college's strategic plan.

These goals address potential impact from the state of Illinois, establish realistic projections in property tax revenues, maintain emphasis on student success, and accommodate staff and resource needs to drive enrollment. Additionally, JJC aimed to maintain responsible reserves, and protectively planned and budgeted for new academic programming.

Among the budget highlights are a $2 technology fee increase to support the implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system, plus new personnel costs related to state and federal compliance and support services. Also included in the budget is a required grant fund match from the U.S. Department of Education Title III Grant to support student engagement, persistence and completion programs. JJC also added more than $1 million to its budget contingency, which is being held for new initiatives currently being evaluated.

"We must invest in JJC to grow JJC," Dr. Mitchell said. "I will continue to focus on innovative solutions to support those investments. It is our students who serve as constant reminders of why we are here: to provide a high quality education and prepare them for a successful future."

In addition to another balanced budget year, JJC's financial team was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 12th consecutive year. The recognition is for its FY2017 budget, and is only given to government bodies that meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting and achieve standards of excellence in financial reporting.

Alumni Association Partners with Northern Illinois Food Bank to Support Students

By Carrie Anderson



More than 130 students received food and supplies when the JJC Alumni Association partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank in May 2018 to support students in need.

The partnership with the food bank is a first for the Alumni Association, which works to promote the welfare of students, alumni, faculty and the community. According to Ericka Williams, alumni board president, the idea of fulfilling basic student needs via a mobile food pantry was the perfect partnership opportunity.

"This activity was so rewarding to the board and we hope to provide more opportunities to our student population and future JJC Alumni," she said.

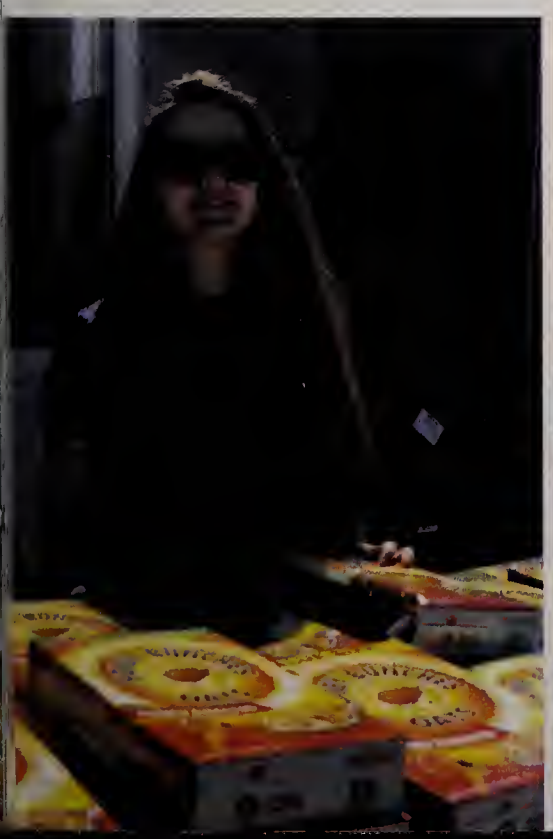
One student confirmed that he was a new dad and the food would come in handy, while he balanced the work, student, and new parent role. Another student said she was taking the food to her homebound grandparent whom she assists while also balancing the demands of being a student and working.

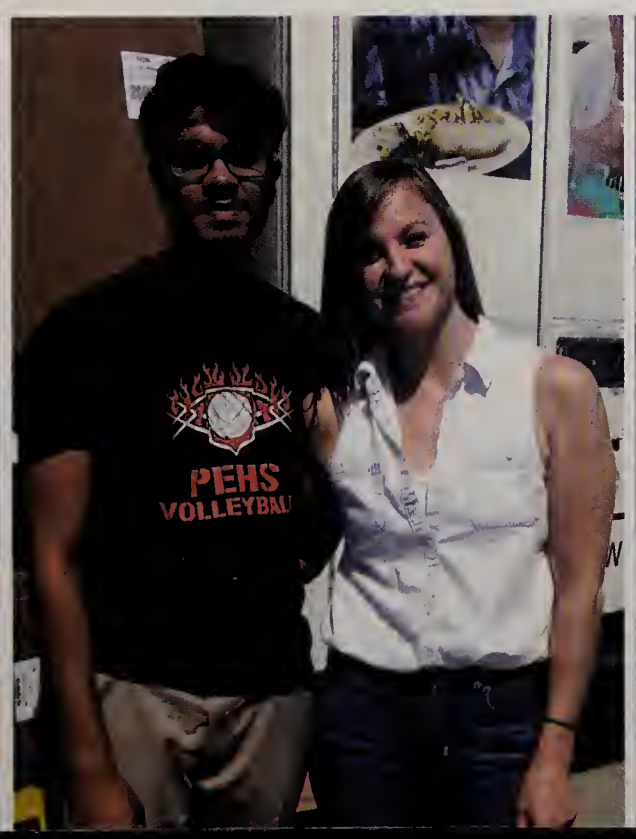
A variety of volunteers were on hand that day, including Alumni Board member Luann DiMonte.

"I appreciated the feedback we received from students on that day and the stories they shared," DiMonte, said.

"We heard so many comments, like, 'this is so wonderful, my dad is injured and lost his job, this will help out so much,' and 'I was embarrassed to come over here, but you guys told me that you were there to help out, I needed this, thanks.' It really confirmed why this was an important partnership to pursue."

If you are interested inspired by this story and want to get involved with the next alumni event, please contact Alumni Relations Manager Carrie Anderson at **caanders@jjc.edu** or (815) 280-2218.









JJC Faculty, Staff Recognized by Illinois Community College Trustee Association

By Katie Nork

Three members of the JJC community were recognized by the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) this past June.

Joan Tierney, JJC Board of Trustees administrative assistant, was the recipient of the 2018 Professional Board Staff Member Award. The award recognizes exemplary professional service to an Illinois community college board.

"I am very honored and humbled to receive the 2018 Professional Board Staff Member Award and to join the past recipients who I have long admired and respected," she said.

Two other JJC faculty members were recognized as nominees in other categories by the ICCTA, which provides legislative advocacy and educational opportunities to community college boards.

Wayne Gawlik, business professor, was recognized as a nominee for the 2018 Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award and Joe Limon, an adjunct instructor in the Technical Department, was recognized as a nominee for the 2018 ICCTA Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member Award.

The Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award recognizes the high achievement of Illinois' full-time community college instructors and The Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member Award recognizes the high achievement of Illinois' part-time community college instructors.



Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award recipient Trustee Bob Wunderlich and his family at this year's Night of Stars.

2018 Foundation Sponsorship Campaign by Amanda Quinn

Thank you to our business and community partners who have invested in the 2018 JJC Foundation Sponsorship Campaign. These donors committed to sponsoring one, two, or even all three of our signature events at the gold, silver, or bronze level.

This year's special events included Night of Stars, JJC Athletic Golf Outing, and the JJC Haunted 5K Run/Walk.

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Baseball alumni enjoying the afternoon at the JJC Athletic Golf Outing.



Dr. Judy Mitchell and Board of Trustee members at the JJC Athletic Golf Outing.

Community Members, Alumni Honored at Inaugural Night of Stars

By Katie Nork



At the inaugural Night of Stars event on May 10, five members of the community were recognized for their humanitarian service to the community and to Joliet Junior College.

Night of Stars was hosted by the JJC Foundation and Alumni Association and combined several past events into one evening of celebration at the Renaissance Center in Joliet.

"All of you are connected to JJC in different ways," JJC President Dr. Judy Mitchell told the audience. "And it is through these diverse relationships, partnerships, and networks that we are able to make a difference. The people we are honoring this evening have impacted their communities in transformational ways and we are proud to call them members of our JJC family."

Jeff Eberhard was honored with the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award for his dedication to helping the homeless population in Will and Grundy counties. Eberhard is the creator of the Emergency Homeless Pack and Micro Food Pantries. Micro Food Pantries are small pantries placed outside of a business and stocked with food items that can be taken at any time of the day.

"It's the little things you can do for others," Eberhard said in his acceptance speech. "I can't say that it was always this way but life has a certain way of seasoning you."



Left to right: Dr. Judy Mitchell, Jay D. Bergman, Ericka Williams



Left to right: Dr. Judy Mitchell, Bob Wunderlich, Luann DiMonte

Also a recipient of the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award was Terry Kunze, member of the Kiwanis Club and founder of the Aktion and Transition Clubs in Joliet. The Aktion and Transition Clubs are organizations for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to connect with one another and help make a difference in the community.

Her daughter Missy, who has Rett syndrome, is Kunze's drive to help those with disabilities.

"Missy does not speak. She uses a wheelchair to get around. She cannot use her hands. But it's her smile that is the impetus and the motivation for the person that I am today," said Kunze.

Robert Wunderlich, Chairman of the JJC Board of Trustees, received the Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award for his 42 years of service to the Board.

"I'm very humbled to get this award," he said. "Susan Wood was the executive administrator for Elmer Rowley, the first president of the JJC. He was the first president when I was a student here. And I've been here through every president since...JJC will be the first choice for all students. It's the best choice."

Jay D. Bergman, president and CEO of Petco Petroleum Corporation and member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, was given the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award for his service to higher education. Bergman was also a past president of the JJC Alumni Board.

"I've received some awards from some other educational institutions over the years but this one is pretty special because it's the school where I started my college career," Bergman said.

Also a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award was Ed Czerkies, who graduated from JJC in 1957. He had a passion for construction - building homes and industrial facilities around the Joliet area for 47 years.

He turned his successful construction business into a way of giving back.

Czerkies donates in memory of his late wife, Carolyn – including an endowed scholarship for nursing students at JJC.

Visit Joliet Junior College's YouTube channel to learn more about the award recipients, **www.youtube.com/user/JolietJrCollege**.



Left to right: Dr. Judy Mitchell, Ed Czerkies, Ericka Williams



Left to right: Dr. Judy Mitchell, Jeff Eberhard, J.D. Ross



Left to right: Dr. Judy Mitchell, Terry Kunze, J.D. Ross



Planetarium Shows

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 23	Sunstruck
Nov. 6	Out There (Dark Matter)
Nov. 20	Two Small Pieces of Glass
Dec. 4	Story of the Christmas Star
Dec. 18	No show. See show on 12/16.
Jan. 8	Black Holes
Jan. 22	The Solar System
Feb. 5	From Earth to the Universe
Feb. 19	Asteroids and Comets
March 5	Sunstruck
March 19	Seasonal Skies
April 2	Mars
April 16	Orbits
April 30	Humans and Robots in Space
May 14	Galileo
May 28	From Earth to the Universe
June 11	Seasonal Skies

Sunday Holiday Show – 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 16	Story of the Christmas Star

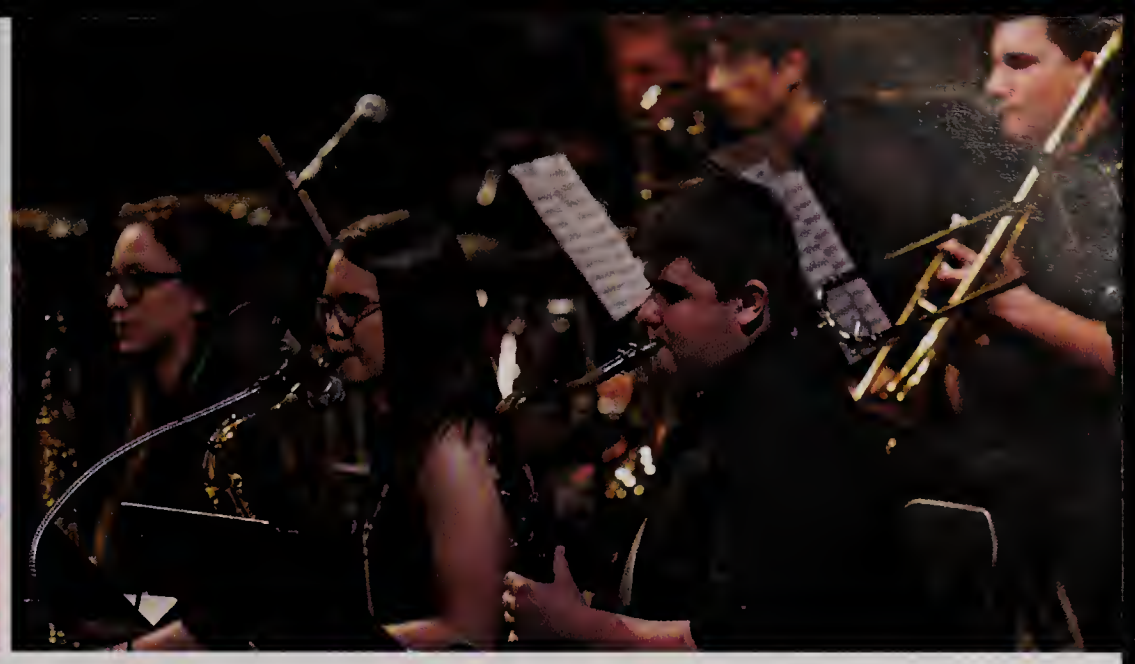
Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 18	We Go To The Moon*
Nov. 1	Mars
Nov. 15	The Little Star that Could*
Nov. 29	Two Small Pieces of Glass
Dec. 13	Story of the Christmas Star
Dec. 27	No Show – School Closed
Jan. 3	The Solar System
Jan. 17	From Earth to the Universe
Jan. 31	Sunstruck
Feb. 14	Humans and Robots in Space
Feb. 28	Trip Through Space*
March 14	Seasonal Skies
March 28	Sunstruck
April 11	The Little Star that Could*
April 25	Galileo
May 9	From Earth to the Universe
May 23	Larry Cat in Space*
June 6	Seasonal Skies
June 20	Larry Cat in Space*

All planetarium shows are free.
For more information, contact
the JJC Herbert Trackman
Planetarium at (815) 280-6682
or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/planetarium**.

**Shows put on for the very young astronomer*





Fine Arts Events

MUSIC

Oct. 28	Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra 4:00 p.m. (Admission $10)
Oct. 31	Student Recitals, Noon
Nov. 28	Student Recitals, Noon
Nov. 30	Jingle and Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Community Band Concert, 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Carols and Chocolate Concert, 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	Guitar and Percussion Concert, 7:30 p.m.

MUSICA VIVA

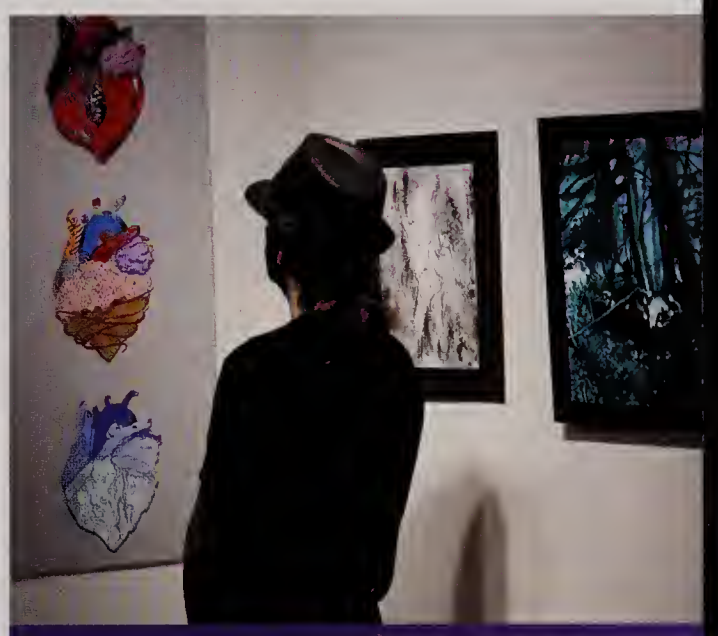
Oct. 14	Faculty/Alumnus Concert: JJC Faculty Jazz Quintet, 3:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	Faculty/Guest Artists Concert: Magnificent Metal VI, 3:00 p.m.
	(The historic St. Joseph Catholic Church, 416 N. Chicago Street, Joliet)

THEATRE

Oct. 4-6	Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches, 2:00 p.m.
	(Fine Arts Theater)
Nov. 15-17	Unnecessary Farce, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	Unnecessary Farce, 2:30 p.m.
	(Fine Arts Theater)
Feb. 20-23	Jesus Christ Superstar, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23-24	Jesus Christ Superstar, 2:00 p.m.
	(Fine Arts Theater)
March 7-9	Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika, 7:30 p.m.
March 10	Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika, 2:00 p.m.
	(Fine Arts Theater)
April 9-13	All My Sons, 7:30 p.m.
April 14	All My Sons, 2:00 p.m.
	(Black Box Theatre)

ART

Sept. 4 - Oct. 12	Recent Acquisitions and Selected Work from the JJC Student Collection
Nov. 16 - Dec. 9	Joliet Junior College Area High School Art Exhibition



For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit **www.jjc.edu/fine-arts**.
All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise stated.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901–

CONNECTIONS

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Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainability**

Matt Dunne, MD, a 1995 graduate and former JJC baseball player, is the system medical director of utilization review and case management and physician advisor of clinical documentation for Edwards Hospital.

His time on the JJC baseball fields and the talents shared by Coach Wayne King led to a full athletic scholarship at Northeastern Illinois University. Matt credits his JJC economics and science classes to his current profession.



> **"I have so many memories at the college, and friendships formed on the baseball field that are still ones that I maintain more than 20 years later."**
>
> **– Matt Dunne, MD**

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/alumni-stay-connected** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

joliet junior college magazine



Launching A New Path

Joe Siwa makes JJC his first choice to retrain for his dream job in aerospace engineering

SPRING 2019

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901
FOUNDATION

Over 14,000 students are attending JJC this semester and the need for support from alumni and friends is apparent now more than ever.





4,574

STUDENTS WERE ON A PAYMENT PLAN TO PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION



49%

OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS RECEIVED SOME FORM OF FINANCIAL AID

36%

OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS RECEIVED FEDERAL PELL GRANTS



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Source: Joliet Junior College & Joliet Junior College Foundation

CONNECTIONS

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Bilateral Amputee - OPT Program

Ben Reynolds isn't letting his disability stand in the way of pursuing a career that helps others. The Orthotics and Prosthethics program is giving him the opportunity to do just that.



Launching A New Path

Joe Siwa, a returning adult student, is following his instinct and shooting for the stars as an aerospace engineering major.



2018 Annual Report

Review of financials from FY 2018 for the college and the Joliet Junior College Foundation.



New Adult Education Library

A new collection in the library helps underserved populations such as struggling readers and English as a Second Language students improve their skills.



Integrated Adult Education Model

JJC's Integrated Education and Training model is motivating students to earn their High School Equivalency while seeking a certificate of completion.

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CONNECTIONS



Dear friends,

Each spring issue, we provide you with annual reports for both the college and the JJC Foundation for the previous fiscal year. As a public institution, it is critical to share the college's financial health and well-being, but more importantly, show how we are investing public dollars to meet the needs of our students and community.

Cost-Savings

As I reflect on my time at JJC, I want to emphasize the responsible budgeting I believe the college has exhibited for many years, even during times of fiscal instability in our environment and society. For example, between 2011 and 2016, I have supported targeted decisions that led to one-time and annual cost-savings of $4 million in our operating budget.

The college's financial team earned the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 13 consecutive years, which is only awarded to government bodies that meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The college has also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 16 consecutive years, which recognizes local governments that go beyond minimum requirements to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

Affordability

Meeting the needs of our students also takes a great deal of consideration when we look at the cost to obtain their academic goals. The college works diligently to ensure we maintain access and affordability.

To that end, we did not raise tuition in FY19, nor do we project an increase for FY20. In the 2017-2018 school year, JJC provided $2.1 million in tuition rebates to students. This historic action took place after the college's board of trustees and college leadership made the difficult decision to raise tuition by $19 per credit hour to help make up for an anticipated reduction in funding from the state of Illinois. However, when the state came through with a finalized budget for the first time in three years, and funding was better than anticipated, and the college was able to partially reimburse students for the financial burden they helped the college shoulder during that time. Currently, of 39 community colleges across the state whose tuition rates range from $174 to $120 per credit hour, JJC's rate of $146 is moderate in comparison.

Financial Support

We offer financial literacy learning opportunities for our students to help them make informed decisions pertaining to their academic commitment. In 2017-2018, our students were supported by over $14 million in state and federal financial aid grants. Students also received around $677,000 in scholarships from the JJC Foundation. If we can support the removal of these financial barriers for students, we do everything we can to ensure they have access to the education they deserve.

Innovation and Investment

It has been important to reallocate and reinvest to build new, necessary programs in allied health like medical assisting, which will launch in Fall 2019. If you're a long-time reader, you've read in past Connections issues stories of our investments in high-tech learning through virtual and augmented reality technology embedded in classrooms across campus to bring heightened understanding to curriculum. These investments continue in the increasingly critical STEM education areas. In the 2017-2018 academic year, the college received a prestigious five-year National Science Foundation Grant award of $650,000 to provide STEM scholarships for underrepresented groups, STEM faculty mentors for students, and research projects to strengthen hands on learning opportunities.

We create futures at JJC. I hope you will enjoy reading about Joe Siwa in our cover story, a returning adult student pursuing his dream career in aerospace engineering. I am so glad you are a part of our story and our future.

Sincerely,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
President

Queridos amigos,

En la revista de primavera incluimos reportes anuales del colegio y la Fundación de JJC. Estos reportes contienen datos sobre el año fiscal pasado. Como institución pública, es de gran importancia compartir información sobre la salud financiera y bien estar de la institución, pero es más importante aún, demostrarles como estamos invirtiendo los fondos públicos para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes y comunidad.

Ahorros de Costos
Mientras reflejo sobre mi tiempo en JJC, quiero enfatizar que el colegio ha exhibido un presupuesto responsable por muchos años, aun durante tiempos de inestabilidad fiscal dentro de nuestro ambiente y sociedad. Por ejemplo, entre el 2011 y 2016, eh apoyado decisiones que nos llevaron a un ahorro en costos de $4 millones dentro de nuestro presupuesto de operaciones.

En los últimos 13 años, el equipo financiero del colegio ha recibido el reconocimiento 'Government Finance Officers Association Distiguished Budget Presentation' (GFOA por sus siglas en inglés), el cual es otorgado únicamente a organizaciones gubernamentales que cumplen con los más altos principios de presupuestos gubernamentales. El colegio también ha recibido el 'Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting' (certificado de logro por excelencia en reportes financieros) por 16 años consecutivos, este certificado reconoce agencias locales gubernamentales que sobre pasan los requisitos mínimos al preparar reportes financieros anuales que son transparentes y que proporcionan información completa.

Asequibilidad
El satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes también toma gran consideración cuando nos disponemos a mirar el costo de lograr sus metas académicas. El colegio trabaja con diligencia para asegurarnos de mantener acceso y asequibilidad.

Con ese fin, no se incrementó el costo de matrícula del año fiscal 2019 y tampoco estamos proyectando un incremento para el año fiscal 2020. En el año escolar 2017-2018, JJC entrego reembolsos de matrícula a estudiantes con un total de $2.1 millones. Esta acción histórica tomo lugar después que la mesa directiva y el liderazgo del colegio tomaran la difícil decisión de incrementar el costo de matrícula por $19 por cada hora acreditada para poder solventar una reducción en fondos estatales. Pero, cuando el estado finalizo su presupuesto por primera vez en tres años, y la aportación recibida fue mayor de lo anticipado, el colegio pudo reembolsar parcialmente a los estudiantes por la carga financiera con la que ayudaron al colegio durante ese tiempo. Actualmente, JJC cuenta con un costo de $146 por hora acreditada, este costo es moderado en comparación al costo de los 39 colegios comunitarios a través del estado, los cuales tienen un costo de entre $174 a $120 por hora acreditada.

Apoyo Financiero
Ofrecemos oportunidades de aprendizaje sobre temas financieros para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a tomar decisiones informadas con respecto a sus compromisos académicos. En el 2017-2018, nuestros estudiantes recibieron un apoyo de más de $14 millones en fondos estatales y federales. Estudiantes también recibieron alrededor de $677,000 en becas por parte de la Fundación de JJC. Hacemos todo lo posible por remover las barreras financieras y asegurar que nuestros estudiantes tengan acceso a la educación que merecen.

Innovación e Inversión
Ha sido importante el re alocar y re invertir para construir programas nuevos y necesarios en sectores de salud como asistencia médica, el cual comenzara en el otoño del 2019. Si usted ha leído esta revista por algún tiempo, seguro habrá leído en ediciones anteriores de Connections sobre nuestra inversión en tecnología de realidad aumentada y virtual la cual se usa a través del plantel para aumentar el nivel de aprendizaje dentro del currículo establecido. Continuamos invirtiendo en áreas críticas de educación como ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM por sus siglas en ingles). En el año académico 2017-2018, el colegio recibió una beca por cinco años, de la Fundación Nacional de Ciencias, esta beca de gran prestigio por el monto de $650,000 es para otorgar becas dentro de los programas STEM para grupos de baja representación dentro de estas áreas, mentores dentro de la facultad STEM para estudiantes, y proyectos de investigación para incrementar experiencias directas de aprendizaje.

Creamos futuros en JJC. Espero que disfrute al leer sobre Joe Siwa quien se encuentra en nuestra portada, un estudiante adulto que decidió regresar a seguir su sueño de ingeniería aeroespacial. Estoy muy contenta de que usted sea parte de nuestra historia y nuestro futuro.

Sinceramente,
Judy Mitchell, Ed.D.
Presidente



Dear Friends, Alumni and Donors,

Did you know that the Joliet Junior College Foundation was established in 1973 with $200,000? This fact is rather astounding, considering in just 46 years, its assets are over $23 million. This success is due to many of our valued alumni and friends, who continue to support the work of the foundation with gifts both large and small. As we share in our Foundation Annual Report, you will see the growth we have experienced over the last year. We hope this trend continues as we support the educational pursuits of our students.

Since the spring issue of *Connections* always features our annual report and a look back at the year's achievements, I want to share that the 2018 Annual Appeal was a huge success! Our alumni and friends responded to our need for support, tripling our donations from the previous year. Also, our business and industry partners continue to value impact on their future workforce. They ensure we have state-of-the-art equipment for academic areas and increase scholarship awards each year for our students. In fact, last year we awarded over $677,000 in scholarships.

I am also excited to share a new initiative in 2019. We are introducing the Alumni Advisory Council, which now exists as an arm of the foundation. It's a new organizational model for our JJC alumni to give support through volunteerism and mentoring. The initial response to this new model has been positive and we look forward to growing this group of dedicated alumni. We will be organizing networking events that will allow our alumni to connect with each other for personal and professional development. I look forward to sharing the success of this initiative in the coming year.

As always, thank you for believing in our mission and valuing the work we do.

Best Regards,

Kristin Mulvey, MSM
Executive Director, JJC Foundation
Executive Director, Institutional Advancement

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A JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 13

The purpose of *Connections* is to strengthen the relationship between JJC, its alumni and community. By sharing their stories and accomplishments, *Connections* serves as another example of the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. *Connections* is published two times a year by the Communications and Marketing Division and the Institutional Advancement Office.

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Please send your letters to the editor to the Editorial Office address.

Bilateral Amputee Hopes to Help Those with Disabilities

By Katie Newberry



One Joliet Junior College student is determined to improve the quality of life for those who have lost extremities, just like him.

Ben Reynolds is a bilateral amputee enrolled in the Orthotics and Prosthetics (OPT) program. Born and raised in Bloomington, he became interested in the field during his time at Shriners Hospitals for Children in St. Louis. As a patient himself, he was able to see how orthotics and prosthetics were fabricated and fit.

"I found the field very thought provoking and admired the potential it has to influence and improve the quality of life for those with disabilities," said Reynolds.

Even though he lost both feet to a birth defect called fibular hemimelia, a condition in which a part of or whole fibula bone is missing, he doesn't want that to slow him down. He also doesn't want to be thought of as disabled.

Reynolds said that he's had the obvious difficulties that come with being a bilateral amputee, but he was also able to play sports and have a normal childhood. As he grew older, reality started to sink in that he wasn't able to walk without the help of a prosthetic device. Now, he strives for a future where anyone with a disability can live a normal life.

Reynolds came to JJC after working in other industries, with the desire to find a new career that supports his passion to help others. During his junior year at a four-year university, he came across JJC's OPT program.

"Being affordable and revered by numerous workers in the field, I decided that it was the best route to take to acquire the experience needed to continue my education," he said.

Reynolds never liked sitting in a lecture hall, so the JJC program was a perfect fit. Now he's participating in hands-on learning in a lab setting.

He will graduate from the program in May 2019 and hopes to be hired by an orthotics and prosthetics practice where he's able to interact with the patients while building their devices.

"You'd be surprised how something like a prosthetic or orthotic device has an almost unlimited amount of potential to change someone's life," Reynolds said. "The look and emotion that radiates off people is palpable and indescribable."

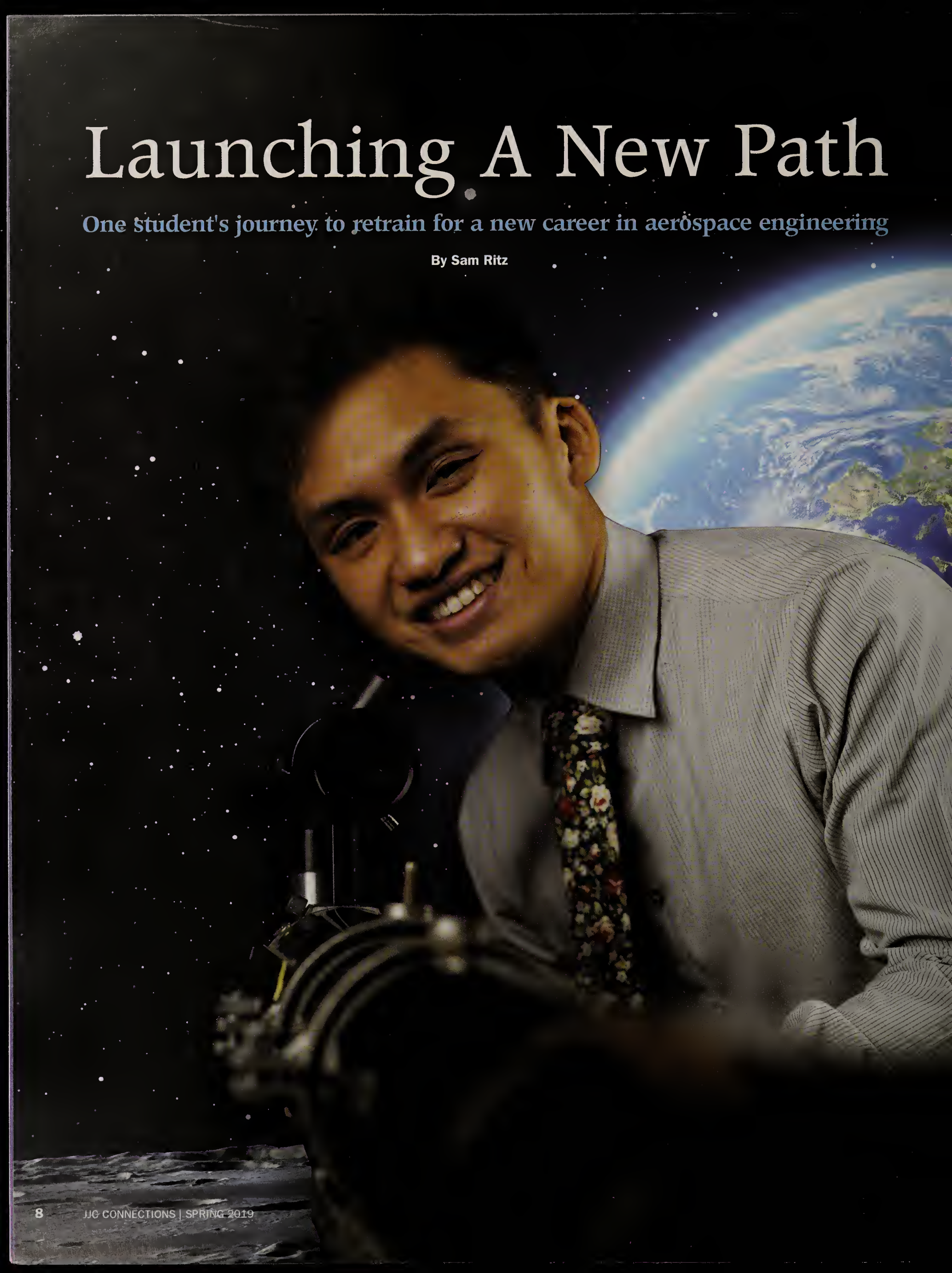
Mike Brncick, OPT professor at JJC, said that Reynolds is a wonderful student to have in the program.

"Ben is an extremely dedicated student. His positive attitude is contagious," Brncick said. "The experience he gained in his first clinical affiliation has enabled him to go beyond the classroom in order to broaden his knowledge and skills. It is a pleasure to have him in class."

Launching A New Path

One student's journey to retrain for a new career in aerospace engineering

By Sam Ritz





Joe Siwa (second from the right), is pictured with the 2016 JJC Epicurean Club. The culinary program, Siwa said, inspired him to work hard. And it paid off: after graduation, he was hired at an Italian fine dining restaurant along Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Joe Siwa's dreams not only reached beyond the stars, they stretched across the universe.

Fascinated by space since he was a kid, the now 25-year-old always imagined he'd work in aerospace engineering and play a part in the first human mission to Mars.

"I don't care how small of a part I play in it, I just want to be a part of it," Siwa said, adding that he believes putting an astronaut on the Red Planet could happen in the next 20 years. "If I worked on a chair that would be on the air shuttle that would make it to Mars, I would be happy. I could say that I had a hand in something monumental in human history."

Even though Siwa is an adult now, he still speaks of his desire to become an aerospace engineer with the excitement of a child. Perhaps this is because science has always been a big part of his life: a way he's made sense of the world. With science, he said, there are always answers – unlike a different part of his life.

At home, Siwa's parents would argue all the time. Once he became old enough to understand what was going on, he tried to be their mediator, but his strategy backfired and only created additional stress.

Divorce was looming, but Siwa never expected he'd become intertwined in its web. Things didn't just end badly between his parents, but their separation only made it harder for him to communicate with his extended family.

"I couldn't see a lot of my best friends who were my cousins. Our family became divided, not just because of my parents but there were other issues going on at that time as well," he said.

All of this happened during Siwa's first year at Joliet Junior College – and the stress didn't mix well with his schoolwork. He was failing a physics class he ended up dropping, he nearly failed a calculus class and he was starting to question whether or not his dream was worth it.

"I was going through a lot and engineering was so mentally challenging for me. It was so hard to focus," he said. "I was all over the place. I didn't have a plan."

> **"The fact that JJC has the versatility of giving me a culinary degree and then turning around and also giving me the opportunity to go to IIT with transferable credits – that's an amazing thing."**
>
> – Joe Siwa

He'd hit his breaking point. He was so used to science giving him all the answers – and now that it wasn't, he was lost muddling through a major he'd been so sure of for so long.

In the end, Siwa chose to do what was best for his mental health. It was a decision that he didn't take lightly.

"I had to choose another major," he said. "So I picked one that came naturally to me. Something I find meditative: culinary arts."



Joe Siwa said coming back to JJC to was a no-brainer. After vowing to put more effort into his physics and engineering classes, he quickly became one of the best students in class.

Siwa didn't have to look far. He knew JJC's culinary program was outstanding, having heard about its award-winning professors and alumni who have gone on to work at five-star restaurants across the country.

Siwa pursued culinary arts because he thought it was his best option. He didn't expect to have a natural born talent. He thrived in class, made friends easily and developed relationships with professors that inspired him.

He joined the Culinary Knowledge Bowl team and became president of the Epicurean Club, eventually making a trip to Hawaii to compete through the American Culinary Federation.

Siwa finally found the ingredient he'd been missing all along: confidence.

"Culinary inspired me to work hard," he said. "After graduation, I got my first job at an Italian fine dining restaurant along Michigan Avenue. I thought: I can't believe I did that!"

Things were great for a while. Not only was Siwa excelling professionally, but his family was slowly reconciling.

There was just one problem. Something was missing, and for a while Siwa didn't know what it was.

When he thought back to his childhood and the way his heart raced every time he talked about space, he found his answer.

"Even though I had a great job right out of college, I was always left thinking that I could have been doing something else," Siwa said.

He wasn't regretful of his choice to pursue culinary arts – in fact, culinary came to him at the exact moment he needed it. But now that he'd grown up, he owed it to himself to follow his dreams.

Thinking about going back to school triggered optimism. While he had trouble with his engineering classes before, he remembered how he succeeded through the Culinary Arts Department. He could do that again with his new degree, this time vowing to focus and work harder.

Attending JJC again was a no-brainer. Its flexibility, student resources and affordability was what made it a great match for Siwa the first time around, so at age 24, he re-enrolled.

He registered for the same physics class he'd failed years ago – with the same professor, Dr. Bill Hogan – and he set up a schedule that would help him complete the class requirements he needed to transfer to a four-year school.



"Joe has always been a bright kid, but the first time I had him in class, he wasn't very committed, especially when these classes require students to do a lot of homework," Hogan said. "Four years later, I was surprised when I saw him in class again. He was never a bad student, but this time, he took a lot of initiative and really became a class leader."

Just like with culinary, Siwa became involved in extracurricular activities like the International Students Club and Latinos Unidos, making a network of friends.

"It was easy for me to still be able to connect with all the younger students, but I could relate to the older students, too," he said. "When I shared my story with them, many told me they had a lot of respect for me – coming back to school again so soon, trying to make a difference in my life."

Now in his first semester at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and working toward his bachelor's degree, Siwa's goals are clearer than ever. He wants to earn a master's degree and work for a company that will help humans advance to Mars.

Siwa's plans are not unlike the aspirations of John Houbolt, a 1938 JJC grad and a famous NASA engineer who became instrumental in the 1969 moon landing.

There's still time before Siwa's future takes off, though, and one thing is for sure: he will never forget how his story began.

"The fact that JJC has the versatility of giving me a culinary degree and then turning around and also giving me the opportunity to go to IIT with transferable credits – that's an amazing thing," he said. "I've learned that you can go for your dreams no matter what time it is in your life. Even if you fall, you can always get up, try again and do better the next time."

The only thing Siwa has left to do is shoot for the stars.



Joe Siwa is pictured with fellow physics classmates Cadarrius Banks (left) and Owen Sowatzke (right).

JJC's Adult Student Support Initiatives

Joliet Junior College prioritizes adult student success. JJC offers resources that benefit both adult and traditional-age students, such as online and hybrid classes, flexible scheduling in the evening and on weekends, and resources like the Tutoring and Learning Center. Plans for improving the adult student experience are only growing: the college will open a center that caters specifically to adult students in the future at the Romeoville Campus.

For more information about JJC, visit **jjc.edu** or call (815) 729-9020.

News Briefs

Through JJC Partnership, Residents of Housing Complex Motivated to Earn High School Equivalency

by Scott Harvey

A new community partnership is helping residents of a Joliet housing complex with on-site High School Equivalency (HSE) courses and GED test preparation.

JJC's Adult Education and Literacy program began offering the service at RiverWalk Homes (formerly Evergreen Terrace) last fall.

It's helping residents like Lakeisher Taylor, 31. The single mother of four, who first tested for her GED in 2008, said she was motivated to try again by her family and because of the program's on-site convenience.

"This is something I need to do for myself and my kids," said Taylor, who attends class at the site twice a week.

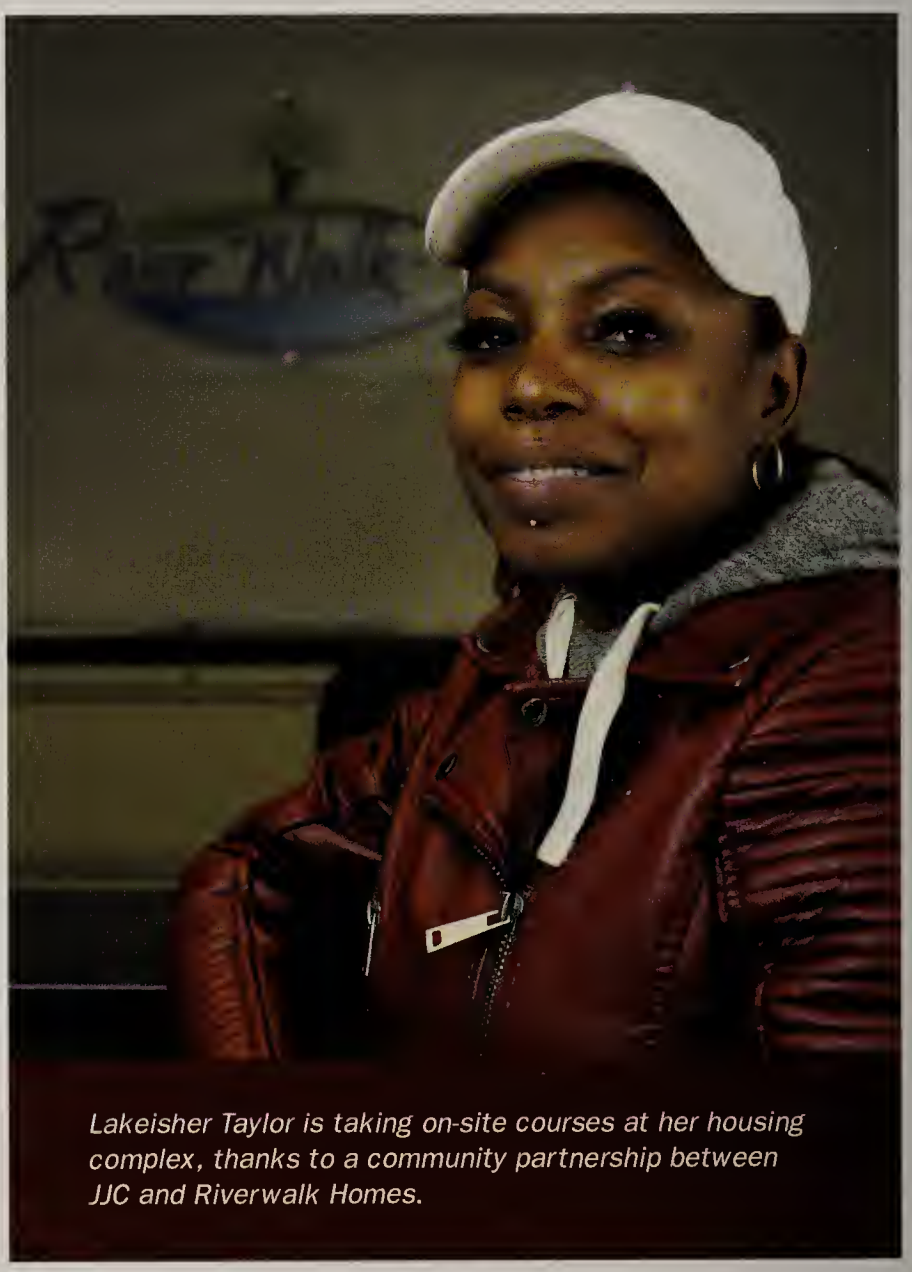
Topics cover math, science, language arts and social studies. According to Libby Budd, JJC's manager of adult education, the classes are co-taught, meaning that students have access to two teachers in the classroom at all times.

"This helps accommodate for the multiple learning levels of students in the class. Students are able to move between teachers based on their personal academic needs," Budd said.

Budd and RiverWalk Program Manager Elizabeth Protich worked together to establish the service. Protich explained the program offers more opportunity and hope to the residents and helps build confidence.

"They no longer have to leave the site to receive services that will enhance their skill set. They can be proud of where they live," Protich said. "There is definitely an increase in enthusiasm and participation overall in the RiverWalk community."

While Taylor is still undecided on her future career plans, she knows that passing the GED is a crucial first step.



Lakeisher Taylor is taking on-site courses at her housing complex, thanks to a community partnership between JJC and Riverwalk Homes.

"It is very important to me because I have children that are depending on me. I have to show them that hard work pays off," she said.

After earning her GED, Taylor plans to continue her education at JJC.

Protich and Budd are exploring the possibility of offering bridge classes in the future based on interest from the RiverWalk residents. The bridge classes are another avenue for residents to explore career pathways and take the next step in their academic journey.



JJC Assisting Bees, Other Pollinators Through Bayer Grant

By Scott Harvey

A 1.6 acre habitat on the Main Campus is helping honey bees and other pollinators thrive thanks to the Bayer Feed a Bee program. The life sciences company is working to reverse a current lack of forage by funding the creation of new habitats. Many of the fruits and vegetables needed in a healthy diet rely on pollination by insects like bees.

JJC received the $1,000 grant in fall 2017, and a pollinator forage area was established in its Greenhouse and Horticulture Teaching Garden and Land Laboratory. The site features a diverse source of plant species.

"The three-year project involved initial plantings in the spring of 2018 of wildflower and forb seed along with a cover crop of oats and controlling invasive species when needed," said JJC Horticulture Professor Lisa Perkins.

The land lab, which has long been home to various flowers, tree fruits and vegetable crops, also has six beehives. Honeybees are important pollinators within the lab, serving as teaching tools in JJC's horticulture classes. The honey is sold at the college's Greenhouse and its occasional pop-up market by the Main Campus Cafeteria, with proceeds benefitting various lab projects.

Perkins said the grant is not only helping the college assist pollinators by providing necessary nutrition, but it is also increasing sustainability at its land lab.

Becky Langer, project manager for Bayer North American Bee Care Program, said they are thrilled to collaborate with organizations like JJC to provide much-needed forage and habitat for pollinators.

"Institutions of higher education such as Joliet Junior College have natural synergies with the Bayer Feed a Bee program's focus on education and outreach, particularly as it relates to teaching students about pollinators' importance to our environment and food supply," said Langer.

The Feed a Bee grant program has now awarded funds to organizations in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C., to plant more forage and habitat for pollinators in the form of wildflowers and other flowering plants. To date, more than 160 organizations across the country have received forage grants.



Professor Brings Home Silver Medals from Culinary World Cup

By Katie Newberry

A JJC professor has helped his American Culinary Federation (ACF) team return home with two silver medals from the Culinary World Cup.

Chef Andy Chlebana, one of nine to compete for Team USA, spent 10 days in Luxembourg for the competition back in November.

While the Culinary World Cup typically requires months of preparation, Chlebana had just six weeks, substituting in late for another team member. He was able to enlist some help practicing from JJC culinary arts students Genna Shaw, Milla Lcheck and Nina DeBoer before he left.

The first portion of the competition was a cold buffet table presentation. It consisted of six desserts, petits fours and a chocolate showpiece. Chlebana said that cold food presentation is extremely detailed work and the judges score contestants on perfection.

The pieces are meant to be on display, so competitors must create food that looks edible but can sit on a display table for up to four hours without deteriorating in look and quality.

"The crazy part about cold food is that you are awake through the entire night before perfecting your plates and completing any last minute projects. Then we head back to the hotel, sleep a little and start preparing for the hot kitchen," said Chlebana.

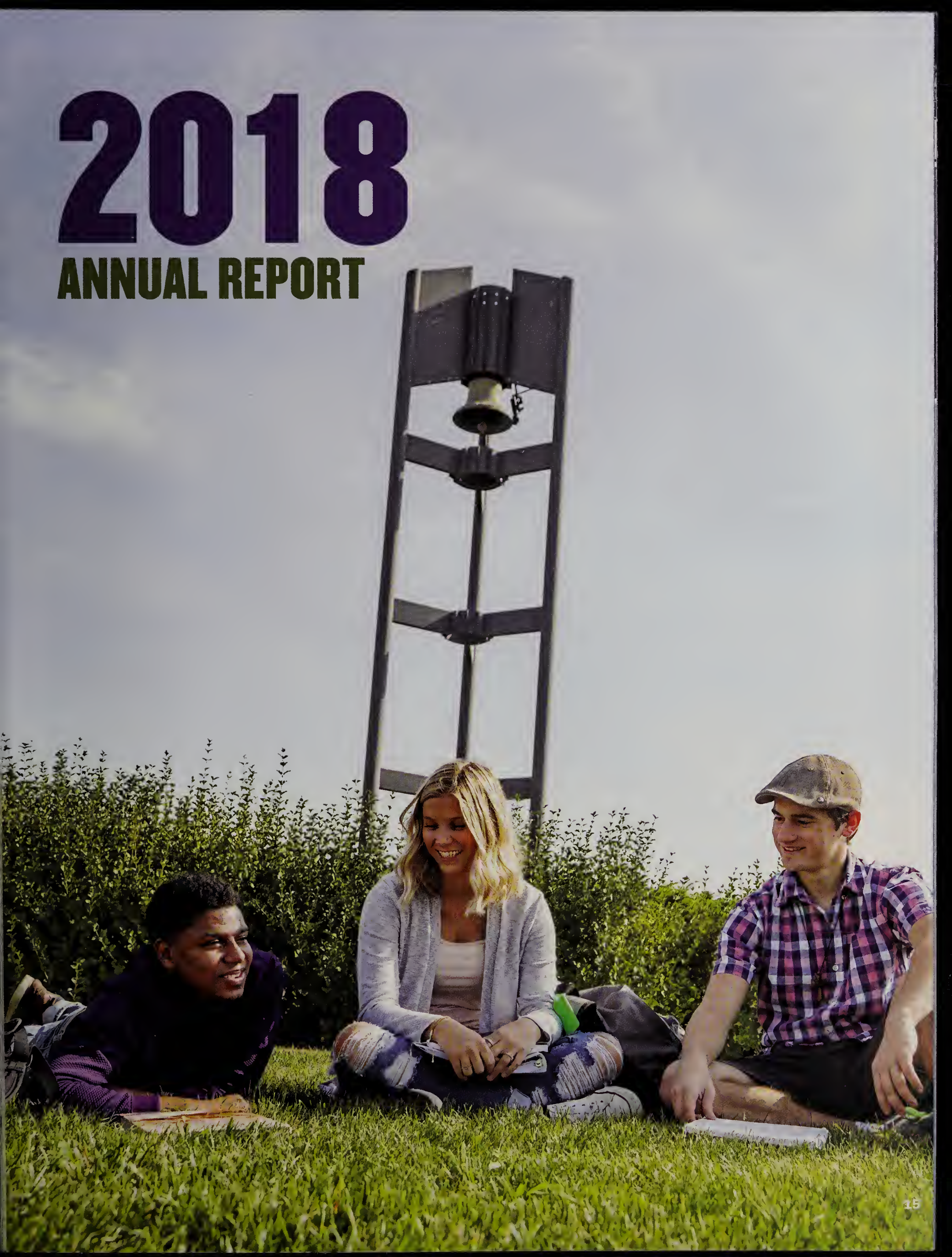
The hot kitchen segment of the competition consists of a three-course menu with 110 portions each. During this assignment, the team had to prepare their food under the watchful eye of the judges for six hours and were given three hours to serve the food.

The ACF team took home silver medals in both competitions. There were about 30 other countries competing.

Chlebana says he enjoys competing and is able to bring a lot of experience back to share with his students.

"The greatest benefit for me is that I learn during the process and can bring some of the tricks and techniques into my classes," he said. "The students enjoy hearing the stories I get to share with them. I also share the challenges that I faced in my preparations and during the competition and how I was able to overcome them."

2018
ANNUAL REPORT





Financial Aid Provided to Students From 2017-2018

JJC students received over $14+ million in state and federal grants for fiscal year 2018

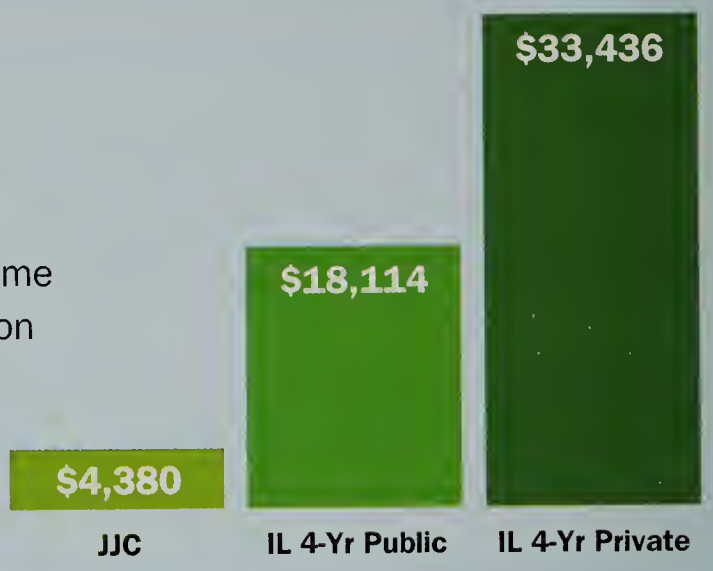
14+ MILLION



JJC is Affordable

Tuition and Fee Comparisons

Tuition and fees quoted as full-time (15 hours per semester) based on 2017-2018 rates



30,000 Students

Approximate **annual attendance** of credit and non-credit students, 2017-2018



16 Years of Reporting Excellence

The college has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Reporting for 16 consecutive years, which recognizes local governments that go beyond minimum requirements to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

The district's financial status continues to be strong despite the State of Illinois' ongoing fiscal uncertainty. When the state finally adopted a budget for FY18, it reduced community college funding by 10%.

Overall revenues were $177.7 million, $9.0 million more than expenses.

Net tuition revenue decreased by 1.4% due to a 27.3% increase in scholarships and tuition allowances that was offset by a net $7 per credit hour increase in the tuition and fee rate. (Tuition rate increase was $19, but $12 was given back to students since the state adopted a budget with funding better than anticipated).

The district received a $10 million construction reimbursement grant from the State of Illinois.

Total costs increased by approximately 7.6% or $11.9 million due to budgeted increases in personnel line items, benefit costs, depreciation and the recording of $5.5 million net OPEB expense due to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 75.

The implementation of GASB Statement No. 75 resulted in the district recording a Net OPEB obligation of $52.6 million.

For a comprehensive look at the college's financial reports, visit:
www.jjc.edu/info/financial-reports.

Condensed Statement of Net Position [in millions of dollars]

Changes in net assets over time serve as a useful indicator of government's financial position.

	2018	2017	Increase/Decrease	% Change
Current Assets	$83.7	$87.3	(3.6)	-4.1%
Capital Assets	244.6	252.5	(7.9)	-3.1%
Non-current Assets/Deferred Outflows	20.4	34.9	(14.5)	-41.5%
Total Assets/Deferred Outflows	348.7	374.7	(26.0)	-6.9%
Current Liabilities	36.1	37.3	(1.2)	-3.2%
Long-Term Liabilities/Deferred Inflows	216.6	250.4	(33.8)	-13.5%
Total Liabilities/Deferred Inflows	252.7	287.7	(35.0)	-12.2%
Net Position				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	83.5	70.5	13.0	18.4%
Restricted	16.2	16.9	(0.7)	-4.1%
Unrestricted	(3.7)	(0.4)	(3.3)	825.0%
Total Net Position	**$96.0**	**$87.0**	**$9.0**	**10.3%**

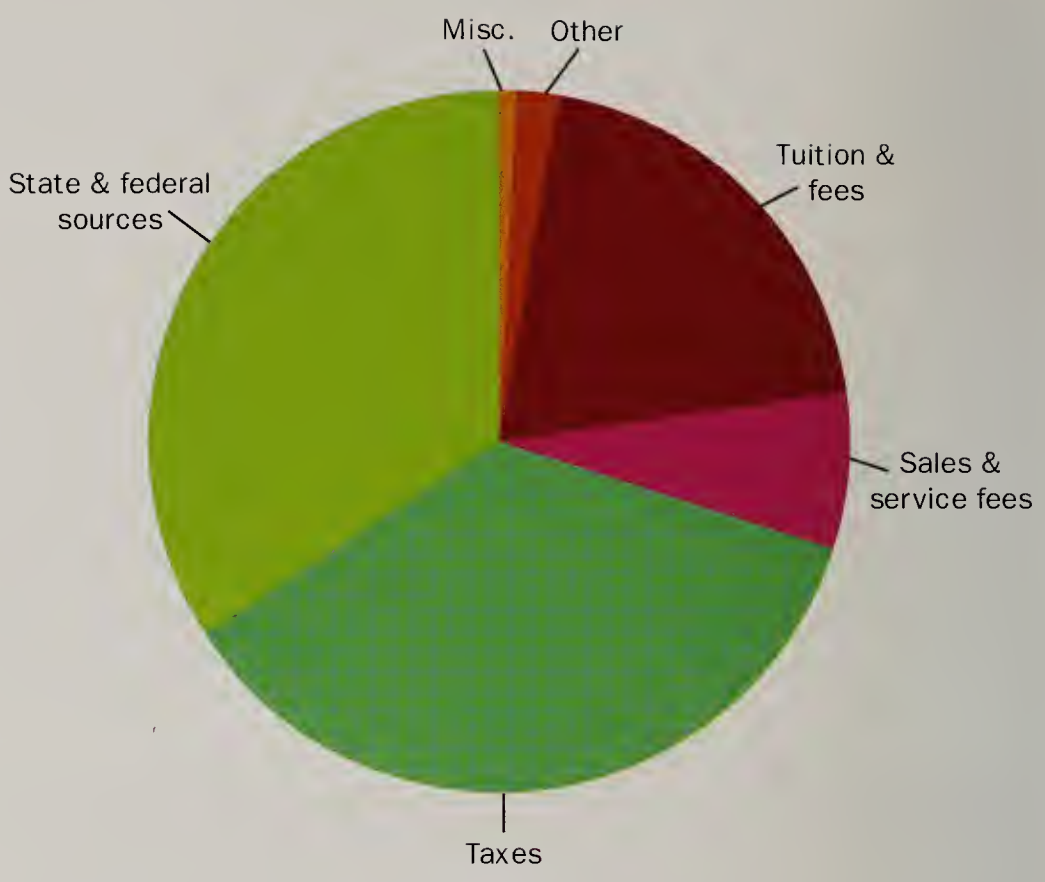
Changes in Net Position from Operating Results [in millions of dollars]

The total cost of all programs and services was $168.7 million. The district's program-related expenses are predominantly instructional cost, academic support, student services, and public services which were $97.1 million or 57.6% of total expenses.

	2018	2017	Increase(Decrease)	% Change
REVENUES				
Operating Revenues				
Tuition and Fees	$42.5	$39.9	$2.6	6.5%
Less Scholarships and allowances	(14.0)	(11.0)	(3.0)	27.3%
Net Tuition and Fees	28.5	28.9	(0.4)	-1.4%
Sales and Service Fees	7.9	8.0	(0.1)	-1.3%
Miscellaneous	1.6	0.9	0.7	77.8%
Non-Operating Revenues				
Taxes	59.3	58.4	0.9	1.5%
State and Federal Sources	77.3	63.0	14.3	22.7%
Other	3.1	2.8	0.3	10.7%
Total Revenues	**$177.7**	**$162.0**	**$15.7**	**9.7%**
EXPENSES				
Instruction	69.6	66.3	3.3	5.0%
Academic Support	5.8	5.4	0.4	7.4%
Student Services	17.9	14.1	3.8	27.0%
Public Services	3.8	3.1	0.7	22.6%
Operations and Maintenance of Plant	17.4	18.5	(1.1)	-5.9%
Independent Operations	9.4	9.0	0.4	4.4%
General Administration	8.0	7.2	0.8	11.1%
Institutional Support	13.3	13.6	(0.3)	-2.2%
Depreciation	12.7	10.2	2.5	24.5%
Interest	10.8	9.4	1.4	14.9%
Total Expenses	**$168.7**	**$156.8**	**$11.9**	**7.6%**
Increase in Net Position	**9.0**	**5.2**	**3.8**	
NET POSITION				
Beginning of Year	**$87.0**	**$128.7**		
Restatement for OPEB liability	**-**	**(46.9)**		
End of Year	**$96.0**	**$87.0**		

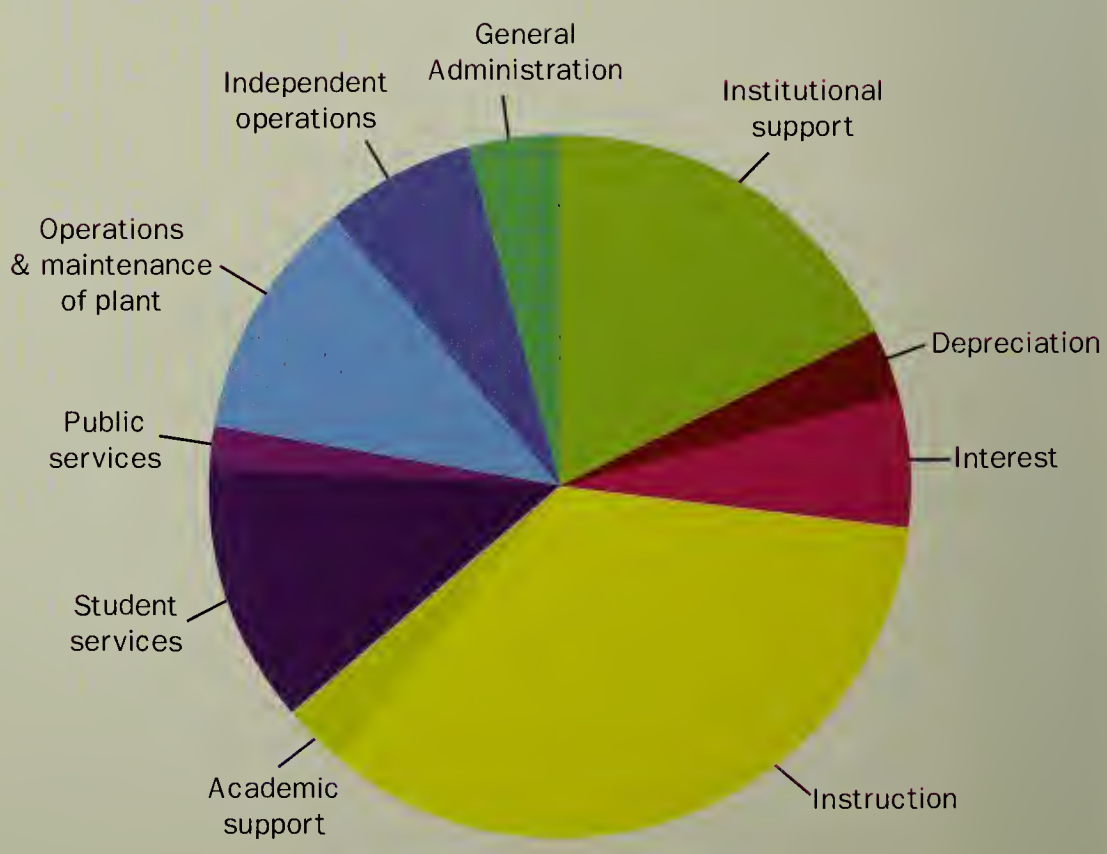
Revenue for Fiscal Year 2018

Tuition and Fees	**16%**
Miscellaneous	**1%**
Other	**2%**
Taxes	**33%**
Sales and Service Fees	**4%**
State and Federal Sources	**44%**



Expenses for Fiscal Year 2018

Instruction	**41%**
Academic Support	**3%**
Student Services	**11%**
Public Services	**2%**
Operations and Maintenance of Plant	**10%**
Independent Operations	**6%**
General Administration	**5%**
Institutional Support	**8%**
Depreciation	**8%**
Interest	**6%**



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from Jennifer Howard '84

Foundation President

It is my privilege to begin my term as president of the JJC Foundation Board of Directors. The JJC Foundation is entrusted with the important task of supporting the college and its students by soliciting and investing gifts that can be used towards scholarships and academic programs.

As an alumna of JJC, I am proud to share in the work of the JJC Foundation and have seen tremendous growth since I began my tenure on the board five years ago. Last year was no exception. The total assets and endowment have reached an all-time high, and over $677,000 in scholarships were awarded to students. This is because of you, our donors. To put it simply, you have created opportunities and are improving lives.

During my tenure as president, I vow that the JJC Foundation will continue forward with strong purpose and dedication in supporting Joliet Junior College and its students. Thank you for your continued support and ongoing commitment. Without your confidence and funding, we could nct accomplish the important work that we do every single day to improve lives through the power of learning.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Howard '84
President, JJC Foundation

Scholarships Awarded

$677,451 Total Amount of Scholarships Awarded

Value of Investments

Total Assets
$23.2 Million

Endowment
$12 Million

Statement of Activities [June 30, 2018 and 2017]

	2018	2017
Total Current Assets	22,453,591	21,193,611
Capital Assets, Net	760,000	760,000
Total Assets	23,213,591	21,953,611
Total Current Liabilities	31,124	45,031
Total Net Assets	23,182,467	21,908,580
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	23,213,591	21,953,611

Statement of Financial Position [June 30, 2018 and 2017]

	2018	2017
Total Revenues	3,321,563	3,806,608
Total Expenses	2,047,676	1,765,988
Net Assets		
Beginning of Fiscal Year	21,908,580	19,867,960
End of Fiscal Year	23,182,467	21,908,580
Endowment	12,015,503	11,686,018
Investments	22,053,349	20,685,752
Annual Contributions	1,174,647	1,159,737
Scholarships Awarded	677,451	597,306

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In Contributions

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Library Purchases $4,000 of New Material for Underserved Populations

by Katie Newberry

Joliet Junior College has a new collection of books for struggling readers and English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, thanks to a collaboration between the JJC Library and Workforce Education.

New materials, worth $4,000, were purchased to serve an underrepresented population at JJC and in the community.

JJC Librarian Amy Chellino and Workforce Education Literacy Specialist Mandy Dwyer spearheaded the project.

"The Adult Education Collection provides struggling readers and ESL patrons with tools for developing and improving their literacy skills. The collection exemplifies the library's dedication to learning and serving diverse populations," Chellino said.

The Adult Education Collection features high-interest, low readability (Hi-Lo) books – mature, complex themed books at lower reading levels. These books can be read quickly and help to improve reading and English language skills.

Dwyer said the program has already seen results. She recalls a special moment with Workforce Education student, Kevin Clancy, who had come to her after reading "Spider Bites" by William Kowalski.

"He brought it back to me, sat down, and said, 'This is the very first book that I have ever finished. Do you have another one?' He went on to finish all of the Rapid Reads collection," Dwyer said.

JJC students can use their student ID card to check out the new materials from the library. Any community member with a valid Illinois library card can also rent items.

"The new Adult Education collection in the JJC Library is a huge step toward making a wider range of students feel welcome at JJC, and will encourage them to visit and use the JJC library," said Dwyer. "Workforce Education students from all over the district will enjoy the opportunity to take advantage of JJC resources using just their home library cards."

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

'Taking These Diamonds in the Rough and Shining Them Up a Bit':

The Gift of the Dr. Hal Dellinger Fine Arts Collection

By Amy Chellino

There are those people who come into our lives who believe and inspire us to reach achievements that are greater than we thought possible. Coming across boxes in the Archives filled with memorabilia from the beginning of JJC's music department was a treasure. The true gift, however, was researching and learning about the dedication and talent behind the person who collected these memories, Dr. Hal Dellinger. His spirit of generosity and mentorship shined through the concert recordings, newspaper articles, concert programs and correspondence that have become the Dr. Hal Dellinger Fine Arts Collection, which is the most recent digitizing project of the JJC Archives.

During his 28-year career as director of music and education at Joliet Junior College, Dellinger created the foundation for the Fine Arts Department and inspired students to expand their instrumental, voice and performance skills. Under his direction, the framework for creativity, art and performance were established at JJC, and achieving extraordinary goals has been ingrained in JJC's promise ever since.



"I consider Joliet to be one of the greatest centers for the development of musical talent in the nation today... The status of music in this community will reach unbelievable heights," Dellinger wrote in the 1950 Spring Concert Program.

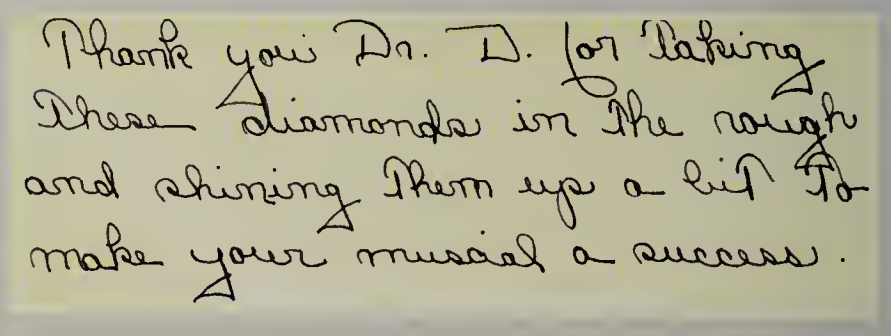
Dellinger began his tenure at the college in 1949 with the goal of establishing a music education program.

"He was an excellent pianist and fun-loving trombone player and played on the road with several dance bands before accepting the position at JJC," Jerry Lewis, professor emeritus and Dellinger's colleague, said.

Dellinger, frequently called "Dr. D" or "Doc," earned his education at Columbia University in New York City. He was the first faculty member at JJC to have a doctorate degree, and he oversaw the swing, concert and jazz bands, orchestra and choir, in addition to teaching and advising students. He conducted these groups in musicals, concerts, programs and assemblies. Performances of Handel's Messiah in December and a spring concert in May were anticipated events each semester, and audiences were treated to a variety of musical performances featuring the work of composers including Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and Irving Berlin, to name a few.

Dellinger was a committed teacher who believed in and cultivated the talents and potential of his students.

Students expressed in the 1957 yearbook dedication to Dellinger, "[His] outstanding attributes are patience, understanding, and friendliness...he is ready to help in any way at any time." A card from the choir and band expressed, "Thank you Dr. D for taking these diamonds in the rough and shining them up a bit."


Thank you Dr. D. for taking
these diamonds in the rough
and shining them up a bit To
make your musical a success.

Lewis added that Dellinger and his wife, Nita, had no children of their own, and that "the JJC music students were their children...the music department was his pride and joy."

A former student, Daniel J. McNabb ('56), spent many hours with Dellinger as a member of the choir and piano student. He expressed in a letter the impact Dellinger had on his life.
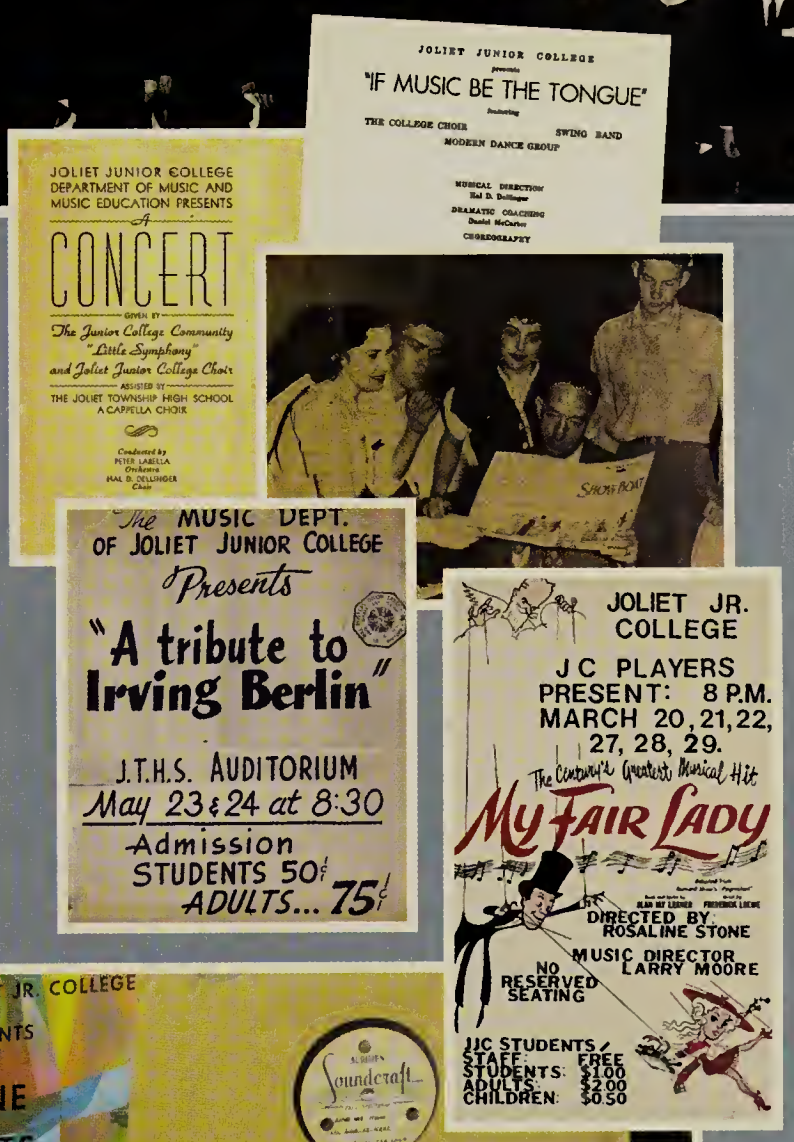
"I consider him the most influential person that helped me decide on my vocation," McNabb wrote. "He was a wonderful teacher and coach helping me to see the importance of understanding and developing a good taste in music."

McNabb ultimately transferred to the University of Illinois in Champaign and received a master's degree in music education, but never forgot Dellinger's influence.









"I wondered many times, 'How would Dr. Dellinger handle this musical problem?' Dr. D's music was so inspiring to us," McNabb said. "We just wanted to achieve musical success as he did...What more could a teacher aspire to give to his students than that?"

The Dr. Hal Dellinger Fine Arts Collection shares an essential piece of JJC's history and can be viewed at the JJC Library's Archives webpage: **https://library.jjc.edu/collections/archives**. The concert recordings from the 1950s reflect the talent and enthusiasm of the band and choir under Dellinger's direction.

These words from the Spring Swing Concert program from 1957 exemplify the gift of Dellinger's philosophy: "Music's...objective is to give love, life, hope, inspiration and satisfaction to all who come within its reach." Dr. Dellinger instilled these values at JJC and gave his students the ability to achieve exceptional goals. Although I never had the honor of knowing Dr. Dellinger firsthand, this collection is a reminder that each of us can aspire to the highest of goals, especially under the guidance of a kind and generous mentor. View and listen to the Dr. Hal Dellinger Fine Arts Collection and experience the spirit and creativity of a transformative professor and the diamonds he made sparkle.



In the heart of giving to a student with musical aspirations, make a contribution to the Dr. Hal Dellinger Music Scholarship. Visit **https://www.jjc.edu/giving**.

Looking for a safe, secure place to donate your JJC memorabilia?

The JJC Library Archives is always looking for ephemera from our college's past. If you have materials you would like to donate, or have any questions about materials in the library archive, please contact:

Joliet Junior College Library
1215 Houbolt Road
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(815) 280-2344



New Cohort Program Provides High School Equivalency and College Certificate

By Scott Harvey

Joliet resident Yesenia Ruiz admits it was difficult in the beginning taking four classes a week, including one on Saturday, while maintaining a full-time job.

But the 26-year-old, who at the time was just finishing citizenship classes at Joliet Junior College, realized the benefits of simultaneously pursuing a High School Equivalency (HSE) and certificate of completion. It's part of JJC's Integrated Education and Training (IET) model.

"On my last citizenship class exam my teacher motivated me to continue my education because he believed my English level was very good. I decided to enroll in GED classes and the opportunity of supply chain management," said Ruiz.

With IET, adult education and literacy students can take courses concurrently and contextually alongside workforce preparation activities. It's a collaboration between JJC's Workforce Education and Business Departments, which in December honored their second cohort to complete the program. Throughout the summer and fall semesters, 14 students sought certificates of completion in Global Supply Chain Management as part of the hybrid offering.

"Observing the students' experience is priceless," said Angela Logwood, an adult education instructor and IET support teacher. "I don't think they themselves initially thought that they could do it, but they realized they can when they actually see the results on paper."

Logwood splits time between preparing students for their HSE, as well as team-teaches their certificate course alongside JJC business professors such as Jim Revis.

"It's a dedicated bunch," he said. "I've had two cohorts go though and both have been amazing in terms of the time they put into it."

Cohort graduates can easily continue their JJC education, thanks to IET's stackable college credentials. Ruiz is now working toward her certificate of achievement in Management and Supervision.

Jenna Jones, 20, was able to apply her certificate of completion toward an associate degree in science. The Channahon resident, who wants to become a chiropractor, plans to seek a bachelor's degree from National University of Health Sciences.

"What originally brought me to JJC was the classes that are offered for people preparing to get their GED," said Jones. "I chose to pursue my certification alongside my GED simply for the reason that you never know what's going to come to you in life, and I wanted to be prepared."

"Observing the students' experience is priceless. I don't think they themselves initially thought that they could do it, but they realized they can when they actually see the results on paper."

– Angela Logwood

Students acknowledge that pursuing their HSE while seeking a certificate of completion was challenging. The coursework is not to be taken lightly, said Jones, but the hard work pays off.

"In order to survive, and then later thrive, in this program and college in general, you must work hard and set aside time to study. You have to try to better yourself because no one is going to do it for you, and if you want to be happy, you have to put forth the effort," she said.

Both Jones and Ruiz said their instructors' assistance and support of their fellow students played a big role in their success.

"Without mutual support we would not have achieved it," said Ruiz.

Patty Zuccarello, dean of technical and career education, said the college is encouraged by the success of the IET model.

"Co-requisite adult education courses and career program courses help to accelerate a student's path to graduation. We plan to do more of these pairings in the future," said Zuccarello.

For more information, contact IET Coordinator Michelle Lyman at (815) 280-1335 or **mlyman@jjc.edu**.



Jenna Jones accepting her certificate from instructor Jim Revis.



Yesenia Ruiz accepting her certificate from instructor Jim Revis.



Adult Education Instructor Angela Logwood addressing cohort students at the December celebration.





Former Players, Coaches Reflect on Coach Wayne King's 33 Years of Service

By Scott Harvey

In 1986, Wayne King saw the head coaching vacancy for Joliet Junior College baseball as an opportunity to broaden his coaching resume. King was completing a six-year stint as assistant baseball coach at his alma mater, Ohio University, where he was previously a four-year starting catcher.

"I told my wife, Janine, that we would come to JJC for a short time and I would try to find a job back in Ohio where both of our families live," said King.

But King found in JJC not just a place to start, but the place to live out his passion for assisting players on the field as well as in life.

"JJC believed in me and I hope that I have represented the college in a first-class manner throughout the years," King said.

King officially hangs up his cleats on May 31, culminating 33 years of service to the college that produced three championship baseball teams, the most coaching wins in JJC baseball history, and record for most wins in National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III. In 2009, King was inducted into the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

"His teams are always fundamentally sound and very respectful," said Steve Ruzich, fellow hall of famer and head baseball coach and athletic director at South Suburban College. "We both started the same year and here we are 33 years later. He is like a brother to me -- we talk every morning when the spring season is in full swing."

Mark Smith, assistant athletic director and head baseball coach at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, called King the best baseball mind he's ever met.

"What sets him apart from most coaches is his ability to get the most out of his players," said Smith, who played under King and later coached alongside him in the early nineties and again from 1995-2006.

Others like Jim Scheffler describe King as a player's coach. Scheffler pitched and played shortstop for the Wolves from 1988-1989.

"Coach was probably in his 30s at the time so he could relate to the young college players. He was a good communicator, teacher, and motivator and allowed you the freedom to learn from your mistakes," Scheffler said. "He also knew how to get your attention when you needed to get your head back in the game. I would know first-hand!"

Scheffler, now vice president of mortgage lending at Mutual of Omaha Mortgage in Lombard, was the first of King's players drafted by a Major League Baseball team. He was member of the New York Mets organization for three years.



King with his team during the 1997-98 season.



King and his players during the 2007 season, during which King earned his 700th career victory.



King honored by his players for his 1,000th career victory during the 2015 season.

"To me, being drafted in 1989 exemplifies the great strides the baseball program made during coach's first couple of years at JJC. I would have never had the opportunity to be drafted without Coach King, Coach Nuzum, and my teammates," he said.

Tyler Thompson was a member of the 2008 championship club and assistant coach for the 2012 title team. He's now director of baseball operations at Bo Jackson's Elite Sports. Thompson called King a great competitor who expected a lot from his players.

"There's not much that gets past him and his players knew it. He never took off a practice or managing a game. He truly coached us every day like it was his last," said Thompson.

For the past 11 seasons, Associate Head Baseball Coach Gregg Braun has had the pleasure of calling King his mentor. To Braun, not a day goes by that he doesn't learn something from the winningest coach in team history.

"Whether in the dugout, or in our offices, I have tried my best to be a sponge and absorb everything he says and does to learn from every situation that has come up in our time together," said Braun.

King brought national recognition to JJC baseball, said Braun. But beyond that, it's the relationships that King has established that put his impact into perspective. Alumni, decades removed from the game, will keep in touch with King and return to campus to show their support, Braun added.

"His passion for the game of baseball and for the Wolves is something that allows people around here to 'bleed purple' even when they leave. I am truly humbled to be able to call Wayne a coach, mentor, boss and most importantly a friend," he said.

Alumni and community members are invited to celebrate Wayne King's career at his final home game of the regular season, May 4. The following month, the JJC Athletic Department will honor King for his career accomplishments during a retirement celebration. For more information on the celebration, visit **www.jjc.edu/wayneking**.

"It is hard to think about things closing until the end has come," King said. "I would like to think that I was fair, honest, open, and that I cared. I never sugar coated anything and my door was always open. I guess I wasn't that bad of a baseball coach either."

Congratulations to JJC's Night of Stars Honorees!

JJC'S *Night* OF *Stars*

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Harry Resis, '65
Private Investor

Susan H. Wood Hall of Fame Award
Dr. Robert Marcink
JJC Professor/English World Languages
JJC Faculty Council President, AFT-Local 604
Adviser, Blazer Student Newspaper

Planetarium Shows

Tuesday Shows – 7:30 p.m.

April 30	Humans and Robots in Space
May 14	Galileo
May 28	From Earth to the Universe
June 11	Seasonal Skies

Thursday Shows – 6:30 p.m.

April 25	Galileo
May 9	From Earth to the Universe
May 23	Larry Cat in Space*
June 6	Seasonal Skies
June 20	Larry Cat in Space*

All planetarium shows are free. For more information, contact the JJC Herbert Trackman Planetarium at (815) 280-6682 or visit **www.jjc.edu/planetarium**.

**Shows designed for the very young astronomer*







Fine Arts Events

MUSIC

April 24 — **Student Recital**
Noon

April 28 — **Choral Masterworks Concert:**
JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Chorale
conducted by Philip Spencer, 3 p.m.

May 5 — **Community Band Concert**
directed by Charles Morgan, 3 p.m.

May 10 — **Jazz Band Concert**
directed by Rich Moore, 7:30 p.m.

May 13 — **Honors Recital**
7:30 p.m.

May 14 — **Guitar and Percussion Concert**
directed by Adam Roth and Adam Cowger, 7:30 p.m.

THEATRE

May 3-4 — **Spring Festival of One Acts**
2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

June 10-14 — **Children's Theatre Touring Show**
Contact Nicki Blowers at (815) 280-2200 for touring and booking information.

ART

April 29-June 28 — **JJC Student Art Show**









For more information, contact the Fine Arts Department at (815) 280-2200 or visit **www.jjc.edu/info/fine-arts**. All events are held at the Joliet Junior College Main Campus unless otherwise noted.

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

CONNECTIONS

1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

Beyond Green at JJC

As part of Joliet Junior College's commitment to environmental stewardship, this publication is printed on paper that contains at least 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

For more information on JJC's sustainability efforts, visit **www.jjc.edu/sustainability**



Harry Resis, a **1965 graduate**, retired in 2005 after a successful career in finance. Harry attributes much of his success to Joliet Junior College.

Harry and his wife reside in Oakbrook, he's also one of the 2019 JJC Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award Recipients.

> **"Out of high school, JJC was the smarter financial decision to start my future. During my time here I was also able to make the baseball team and it was truly a great and rewarding experience."**
>
> **– Harry Resis, 1965**

WHAT IS YOUR JJC STORY?

We want to hear how JJC helped you start your career, realize your dreams or begin a new path in life.

Visit **www.jjc.edu/stayconnected** to submit your story and reconnect with your college.